SPORTS / A26

San Antonio
Spurs advance to NBA finals

NEWS / A2

Ombudsman sacks
AFP chief accountant for unexplained wealth

METRO / A19

Bus robbery turns
into hostage-taking, ends in 5 deaths

ACROSS / A16

Gunmen release
4 hostages after brief captivity

Baguio school offers 'pay-per-view' courses

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WHEN classes start on June 4, some of the 19,000 students here will enroll in courses that their parents may find unusual.

BAGUIO/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, June 1, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 173 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

US, Iran listed far down in peacefulness study

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN finished in a virtual dead heat, far down the list, in an assessment of the peacefulness of 121 countries.

The United States placed 96th and Iran just behind at 97th, according to the global index released on Wednesday and compiled on the basis of research by the intelligence unit of The Economist magazine.

US, IRAN/ A8

RP, Australia sign pact on joint military games

By Michael Lim Ubac

CANBERRA (VIA PLDT)—THE PHILIPPINES and Australia yesterday signed an agreement allowing the armed forces of both countries to conduct joint counter-terrorism exercises—the second such treaty, after one with the United States, that Manila has entered into.

According to officials of both countries, the RP-Australia Status of Forces Agreement (Sofa) is expected to neutralize the dominance of America in the Philippines because it opens the door to the entry of troops from other nations.

In a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was "optimistic" about "the unity of our region" and the prospects for peace, stability and economic growth.

She added: "And there is no more reliable friend and ally than Australia to anchor our peace and stability in the region."

Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., who signed the agreement with Australian Defense Minister Brendan Nelson at Parliament House, said the Philippines had learned from its experience with the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), particularly in the case of an American soldier convicted of raping a Filipino woman.

Ebdane said that unlike the VFA, the new treaty would submit Filipino and Australian soldiers to the criminal jurisdiction of both countries.

Ms Arroyo, who arrived here on Wednesday for a two-day state visit, said the Sofa was "a historic defense cooperation agreement between two nations."

"We believe that we must stand shoul-

RP, AUSTRALIA/ A6

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Australian Prime Minister John Howard applaud as Philippine Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane (left) and Australian Defense Minister Brendan Nelson exchange copies of the Status of Forces Agreement in Canberra.

Economy expands 6.9%

RP is on a roll, GMA says of strongest growth in 17 years

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY SURGED 6.9 PERCENT IN THE first quarter of the year from the same period in 2006, way above expectations, prompting officials to declare that the country was no longer a laggard in Asia.

Low inflation, a strong peso, government's pump-priming activities and preparations for the elections pushed gross domestic product (GDP) growth to its highest level since 1990, the National Statistical Coordination Board reported yesterday.

GDP is the total value of goods produced and services rendered in the country in a given period.

The gross national product (GNP), another way of measuring the economy, grew 6.6 percent in the first quarter. GNP is GDP plus remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the earnings of Filipino companies abroad.

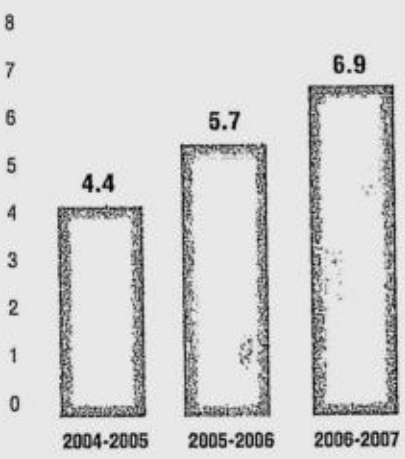
"The Philippines is on a roll," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement issued from Australia, where she is on a state visit.

"This is the fastest pace in almost two decades—9.1 percent growth in services, 5.3 percent in industry, 4.2 percent in agriculture."

Growth in the services sector, which includes transportation, finance, trade and communication, was largely due to the

ECONOMY/ A15

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
Growth Rates, 1st Quarter 2004-2007



What growth means to ordinary folk

By Michelle V. Remo

DOES HIGH ECONOMIC GROWTH benefit Juan de la Cruz?

Economists have said the economy must grow at least 7 percent annually to substantially reduce the poverty incidence.

"Economic growth is partly a result of additional investments or expansion of existing businesses, which means more employment opportunities for the people, said an official of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Dennis Arroyo, a director for policy

WHAT GROWTH/ A15

PABLO: Seventh Filipino to reach Everest's peak. INQUIRER PHOTO

Mountaineer fulfills 15-yr dream

By Tarra Quismundo

CLOSE TO THE SUMMIT OF THE world's tallest mountain, two of his fellow mountaineers starved for oxygen and died.

Even so, there was no turning back for 36-year-old Regie Pablo.

"That was my dream. I talked to God and I told him 'I will take all the punishment you give me, but please let me live here.' I was really determined to reach the summit," the industrial engineer told the INQUIRER upon his return home on Tuesday night.

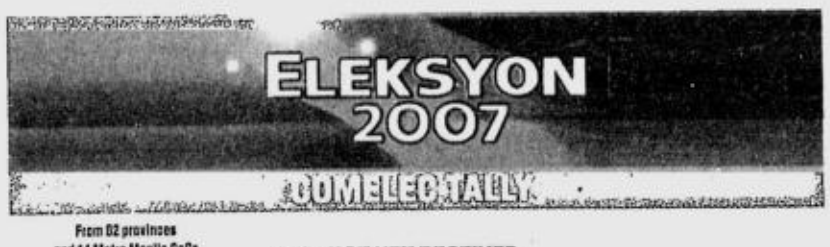
On May 17, Pablo became the seventh Filipino to conquer the 8,848-meter Mt. Everest.

Several others in his expedition had lost heart, given up and turned around. Two lost their lives but the awesomeness of the challenge to conquer the world's tallest peak couldn't weaken Pablo's spirit.

His success came a day after three other Filipinos—Carina Dayondon, Janet Belarmino and

MOUNTAINEER/ A6

Mountain resort attracts election 'rice traders'



From 82 provinces and 14 Metro Manila CoCs As of 5 p.m., May 31, 2007

1	LEGARDA	17,107,885
2	ESCUDERO	16,934,972
3	LACSON	14,391,577
4	VILLAR	14,225,535
5	PANGILINAN	13,570,232
6	AQUINO	13,359,066
7	ANGARA	11,453,241
8	CAYETANO, A.	10,912,596
9	ARROYO	10,851,569
10	HONASAN	10,642,508
11	TRILLANES	10,270,345
12	PIMENTEL	10,055,335
13	ZUBIRI	9,905,764
14	RECTO	9,745,485
15	DEFENSOR	9,072,865
16	PICHAY	8,836,825
17	ROCO	7,901,449
18	MONTANO	7,056,475
19	SOTTO	6,837,963
20	OSMEÑA	6,678,106

CoCs NOT YET RECEIVED

Province	Number of registered voters	Reason for delay
ARMM		
Basilan	181,447	Delayed provincial canvassing as Comelec still has to declare failure of elections in certain barangays like Barira
Lanao del Sur	396,800	Special elections; provincial canvassing still going on
Lanao del Norte	483,907	Questionable SoVs and provincial CoCs
Sultan Kudarat	355,496	Questionable SoVs and provincial CoCs
Surigao del Norte	261,735	Questionable SoVs and provincial CoCs
Subtotal	1,679,385	

CoCs RECEIVED BUT TABULATION DEFERRED

Maguindanao	337,108	Comelec has ordered retabulation after the poll body recognized that the zero votes for 19 senatorial candidates are "statistically improbable"
Caloocan City	567,994	Canvassing of votes still going on after city board of canvassers reconvened and decided to use the 7th copy of the ERs as a result of failure to find 23 missing ERs from districts 1 and 2 comprising 4,000 votes
North Cotabato	556,678	Comelec ordered recanvassing of the municipal CoCs because of alleged discrepancies with the provincial CoC
Subtotal	1,461,780	
TOTAL	3,161,165	

COMPILED BY: NIKKO DIZON/JOCELYN UY INQGRAPHIC: L.A.MISTADES

By Fe Zamora

MARAWI CITY—A MOUNTAIN RESORT on the sprawling campus of the Mindanao State University (MSU) has become "a marketplace for rice traders," according to a former regional president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

What Dalidig Sumndad meant was that the state-owned Marawi Resort Hotel had become a hive for post-election fraud, "rice trading" being a euphemism for the activity.

For example, if you are a poll watcher and wondering what had happened to certain election returns (ERs), "election operators" may be able to help you, Sumndad told the INQUIRER last weekend.

He said such operators were converging on the resort every morning to clinch the sale or purchase of "missing" ERs.

Even party-list groups were engaged in rice trading, and party-list votes were being "sold" and "bought" at rates as high as P30 per vote on a wholesale basis, he said.

Sumndad said the delayed release of official election results had drawn to the resort a number of operators offering "last-ditch" services to candidates desperate to win.

"They're all here. Business is brisk in the morning," said Sumndad, a former lawyer of Moro leader Nur Misuari.

Last weekend, the resort's clubhouse swarmed with candidates (mostly local politicians and their bodyguards), military men and their security escorts, lawyers representing senatorial candi-

MOUNTAIN/ A8

North, South Cotabato poll supervisors relieved

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Nikko Dizon

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS YESterday relieved the provincial election supervisors of North Cotabato and South Cotabato, who were both accused of having a hand in padding and shaving votes.

Commissioner Romeo Brawner, who is in charge of the two provinces, announced that the Comelec sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) had decided to relieve Lilian Radam and Yogie Martirizar pending an investigation of the alleged padding of votes for both Team Unity (TU) and Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates in their provincial CoCs.

In the the new and corrected tallies from South Cotabato, nine GO candidates, one TU candidate and two independents were in the winning circle.

The tallies in the province kept the overall standing nationwide at 8-2-2 in favor of the opposition.

NORTH/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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(All in exact order)
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms mainly in the afternoon or evening. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/05/31/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

12-0 just a slogan, TU admits

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG APPEARS READY TO KISS ITS dream of a 12-0 sweep of the senatorial race goodbye.

"It was just a slogan. It was one way of telling our candidates not to junk each other," said Gabriel Claudio, the presidential political adviser, of the 12-0 mantra that administration officials and Team Unity leaders kept repeating during the campaign.

While not giving up hope that more TU candidates would make it to the winning circle even as the canvassing of the votes draws to a close, Palace officials conceded that the Genuine Opposition was dominating the race to put 12 candidates into the Senate.

Claudio, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, TU campaign manager Reli German and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye met with INQUIRER editors and reporters at a dinner last Tuesday.

Ermita noted that the canvassing was far from over and cautioned everyone against making premature pronouncements about the results of the Senate race.

But if the trend showing GO getting more Senate seats should prevail, Malacañang would accept the results as the "voice of the people," he said.

"So be it. Let the thing speak for itself," Ermita said.

Throughout the 90-day campaign, administration officials were talking confidently that TU would clobber the GO, 12-0, because of the administration's vaunted political machinery.

Administration candidates and allies won about 93 percent of the more than 200 congressional posts and around 17,000 local positions, ensuring that no new impeachment bid against President Macapagal-Arroyo would succeed.

Despite the overwhelming administration victory in Congress and the local posts, however, the TU senatorial slate is far from obtaining a respectable finish.

As of the latest Commission on Elections count, only two TU candidates—Edgardo Angara and Joker Arroyo—are safely in the winning circle.

TU candidate Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's former chief of staff, conceded defeat on Wednesday.

Claudio said TU expects two more of its bets to win—Juan Miguel Zubiri and Ralph Recto.

Ermita said the contrasting results of the local and senatorial races demonstrate the "vibrancy of our democracy."

He said the May 14 elections showed the overwhelming influence of media, especially in Luzon.

Palace officials, however, did not agree that the opposition success in the senatorial race constituted a protest vote against the President.

"The Senate is only part of the legislature. Why is there overwhelming support in the House if that is a protest vote against the administration?" said Ermita.

They said the good showing of Gregorio Honasan, a cashiered colonel and former senator, and Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, both of whom are charged with rebellion and coup d'etat, did not mean a repudiation of the Arroyo administration.

Namfrel lawyer escapes gunmen

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and DJ Yap

TWO UNIDENTIFIED MEN FIRED A SHOT IN the building housing the office of the spokesperson and legal counsel of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) at noon Thursday but failed to hit him.

Namfrel lawyer Jose Bernas said he was able to run into his office and shut the door behind him leaving the men out in the hallway. One of them then fired a shot at his door and they then left the building. Bernas' office is at the Rajah Sulaiman Building on Benavides Street in the Makati business district. He was unhurt.

In a telephone interview, Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvia said Bernas was supposed to attend the regular press conference that Namfrel gives to reporters at midday.

Bernas, however, failed to make it, apparently because of the incident, Alvia said.

Alvia said he talked to Bernas later in the afternoon and learned of the incident where the two men had identified themselves to the building's security guards as reporters who had been "advised by the (Commission on Elections) to interview Bernas."

In a later interview, Bernas said he did not think the incident was connected to his job as a lawyer for the poll watchdog, but may have had something to do with any one of the controversial cases that he was handling at the same time.

AFP accountant with P35M in unexplained wealth sacked

By Volt Contreras

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN has dismissed from the service the chief accountant of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who was found to have acquired some P35 million in mostly undeclared assets, including a P4-million sports utility vehicle for his mother-in-law.

"Lifestyle check" investigators found prima facie evidence that Generoso Reyes del Castillo Jr. had amassed wealth "manifestly out of proportion to his salary and other lawful income" during the 10 years that he served in the position, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said in a statement.

Del Castillo, who was earlier slapped with a six-month preventive suspension, was cited for making false entries in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) and found "guilty" of grave misconduct, dishonesty and "conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

A 29-page decision approved by Gutierrez showed that Del Castillo failed to declare the following in his SALN from 1994 to 2004:

- A house and lot in Sta. Mesa, Manila, which he acquired in 1999 but which was declared only in his 2004 SALN;
- Interests in the Filipinas Tri Star Productions Co.; Colt Films.; Novastar Films; G&L Food Services; Nu Art Movies Corp.; and M&G Foodworks;
- Five vehicles worth P8.6 million, including a P4 million Lincoln Navigator, found registered under Pro-Health Pharma Phils., where Del Castillo's wife owns 71 percent of the shares. The vehicles were always seen parked at one of Del Castillo homes, with the Lincoln used "exclusively by [his] mother-in-law."

In the SALNs that he submitted, Del Castillo pegged his and his wife's income from 1994 to 2004 at only P10.2 million, the Ombudsman said.

CA upholds QC exec's dismissal

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS UPHELD the dismissal by the Ombudsman of the electrical division chief of Quezon City's engineering department for gross neglect of duty in connection with the August 2001 Manor Hotel fire that killed 74 people and injured many others.

The appellate court said Romeo Montallana could not point the finger at his subordinates and deny any administrative liability in the incident because he did not conduct the inspection of the hotel.

The fire was found to have been caused by an electrical overload due to the use of too many electrical gadgets and appliances by guests.

The Ombudsman's investigation also found the QC electrical division did not conduct an annual inspection of the Manor Hotel from 1995 to 2001.

Leila B. Salaverria

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!

Ultrashape – Lipo Without The Suction continues to make waves in the slimming industry since its official launch in Manila early last year. Tagged as the first non-invasive breakthrough in body contouring, Ultrashape uses an ultrasound beam to breakdown and liquefy fats from outside the body. Promising an average reduction of about 2cm in just one treatment, it effectively reduces fat deposits on multiple body areas such as the tummy, flanks and thighs.

A small amount of fat reduction is just not worth undergoing surgery for. Liposuction usually involves massive body contouring, and is often not recommended when only a few inches of fat have to be removed. Thus, for the majority of people who only need a few touch-ups, Ultrashape offers a much safer alternative. It gives the benefits of liposuction without the risks or side effects, surgical scars and downtime. The result: Smooth, even and shapely curves you can flaunt even without your clothes on!

Due to its increasing popularity, demand for Ultrashape is high often resulting to fully booked appointment schedules from its growing roster of clients. These women have testified – they have finally found the best alternative to liposuction!

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, 38

"When Ultrashape was offered to me, I was excited! Ultrashape concentrates on that last hard-to-lose fat that remains in your body even after you've lost weight. I told myself, at last, there was a chance to lose all that stubborn fat that just wouldn't seem to go away. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. The treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month.

Ultrashape is really the perfect finishing touch for people like me who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Lyn Ching-Pascual, 34

"What intrigued me about Ultrashape is the claim – the easy treatment you can have in your lunch break. Apart from that, a friend of mine said that her friend tried Ultrashape as soon as it came out in the market. And she immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape promises an average of about 2cm, that's true, but it's also possible for someone to lose even more than that too. That's why for me, even if liposuction was the only weight-loss treatment available, I'd rather walk up a building 100 times than have an operation because I don't want the possibility of dying for vanity.

With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a better slimming option. Since it's non-invasive, I've got nothing to worry about. After trying it firsthand, I was like, 'Is this real?!' I just walked in, got the treatment and after an hour, I was on my way back to work again! It's as if nothing happened. The best part was, I could feel my tummy flatten only after a few weeks! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down excess fats!"

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, 42

"Nothing really compares to Ultrashape. When I tried it, I immediately lost 4cm in my tummy after only 1 session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do! Diet pills and crash dieting don't work for me. With my catering and events business, I can't just turn my back from tasting and savoring my own menus. More so, if it's lipo we're going to compare Ultrashape with, lipo doesn't even come close to it as far as safety is concerned. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle for liposuction?! I must be very desperate or I must be so fat that I could no longer move before I'd consider getting it done. I just find it too dangerous!"

Undeniably, Marie France's Ultrashape is solid proof that the trends in slimming now slant towards the approach that's safer yet as effective. After going through a weight-loss program, it is highly recommended to continue with Ultrashape treatments right after. It's the best final touch-up in getting rid of remaining stubborn fats in the body. For booking schedules, call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639).

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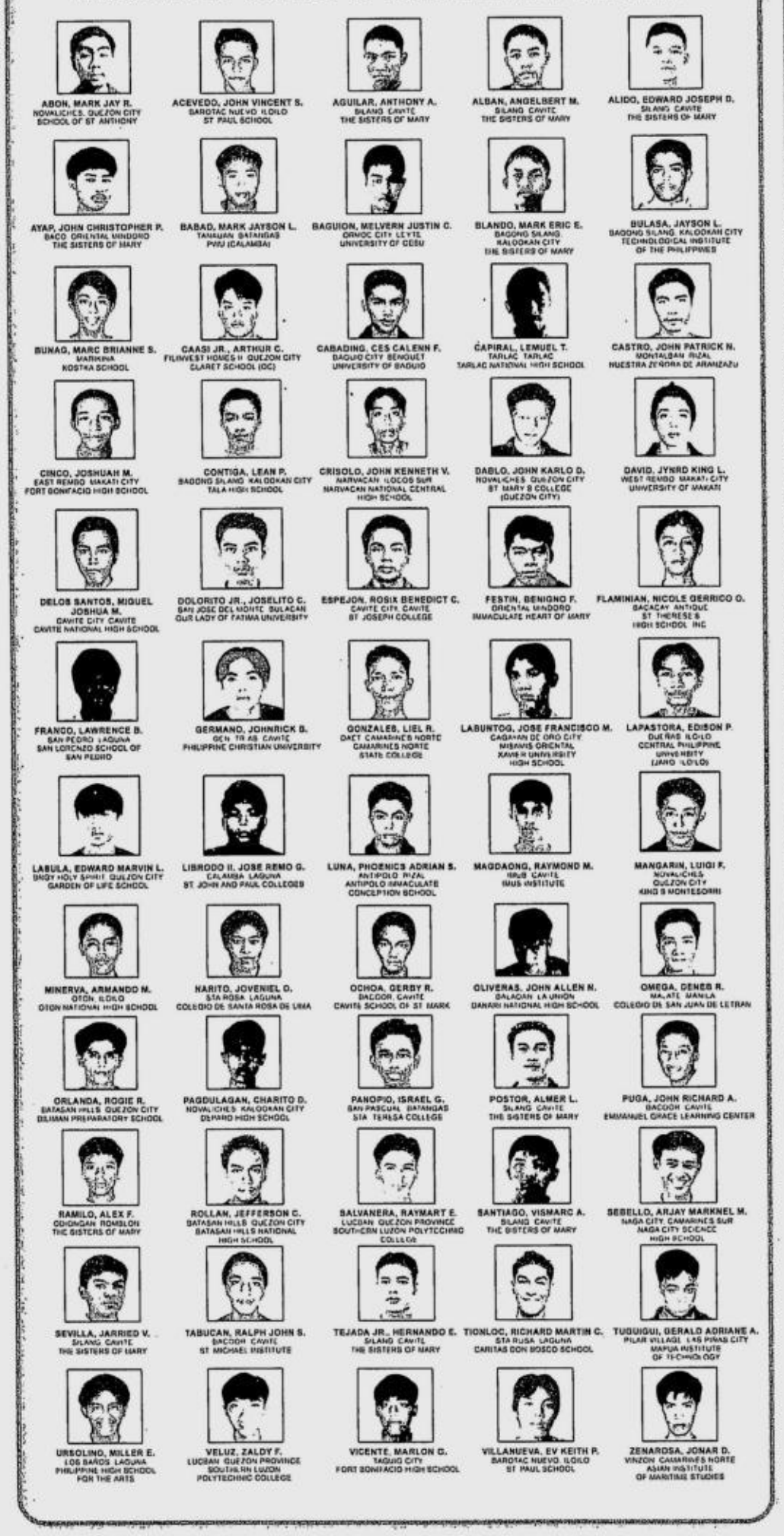

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Proclaim 13 winners for senator, Lim urges

MAKE IT "MAGIC 13."

Sen. Alfredo Lim, the mayor-elect of Manila, is advocating for the proclamation of 13, instead of 12, winners in the recent senatorial elections to "save on expenses."

Lim, who spoke at the Quijano de Manila forum in Malate, will leave a vacancy in the 24-member chamber when he assumes his new position as Manila mayor on June 30.

By law, the vacancy should be filled by holding separate elections. Special elections for vacancies not caused by expired terms are usually held alongside regular elections.

Alternatively, the Senate can just carry on with an incomplete membership.

"It would cost quite a lot to hold special elections. I am in favor that the 13th slot be occupied," he said, agreeing with a suggestion from INQUIRER columnist Isagani Cruz.

The 77-year-old Lim still has three years to go on the Senate term to which he was elected in 2004 which he would have to give up now that he is mayor of Manila.

Cruz, a former Supreme Court associate justice, stressed the importance of a full membership in the Senate "because of its expected role as a tempering and correcting influence on the House of Representatives."

Lim said the 13th-ranked candidate would have the mandate of the people since he or she would have garnered more than nine million votes.

"Let's give it to the deserving candidate. He would still be a full-fledged senator but only for the remaining three years so the Senate would be complete," he said.

Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Team Unity candidate Miguel Zubiri have been see-sawing between the crucial 12th and 13th slots in the official and non-official counts.

Lim said the constitutional provision of special elections to fill a Senate vacancy still has to be tested.

"Until the court rules that it is unconstitutional, then it is possible. We can still test the waters. After all, it's the people who voted," said Lim, who is a lawyer. *Allison W. Lopez*

Photog Nievera; 83

EVARISTO F. NIEVERA, AWARD-WINNING photojournalist and former head of the Sunday Times Magazine photo section, died in Long Island, New York on May 23.

Nievera started as a photojournalist with Time/Life, then joined The Philippines Herald. Later on, he moved to Manila Times, where he headed the photo section of the Sunday Times. Along the way, he garnered several local and international photojournalism awards.

He is survived by his wife Norma, who resides in Carle Place, New York, and his five children Antonio, Corazon Enriquez, Carmelita Havens, Cynthia Chow, and Ariel.

He was also a very active ham radio operator. His stations DU1EN and W2NBC are now silent keys.

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RP, Australia sign pact on joint military games

From page A1

der to shoulder with our allies like Australia, who are with us every day in the fight against terrorism and the fight for freeing our region of mindless terrorists who spew ... destruction in the name of misguided religious extremism," she said.

The President said the signing of the Sofa was done "at a time of uncertainty in the world."

"It is now more important than ever to build new alliances on a bilateral and multilateral basis to ensure greater political, economic and military security," she said.

When asked about the "lessons learned" from the VFA, Ms Arroyo refused to be drawn into a debate on whether the Sofa was a better version of the VFA.

"Let me say that this is an agreement that will help us to modernize and professionalize our Armed Forces. It will help in our interoperability among our forces in the fight against terrorism. It will help us with intelligence fusion. Overall, it will be good for the battle against terrorism," she said.

Asked by the INQUIRER if she could assure the Filipino public that, under the Sofa, there would be no similar battle over custody of the convicted rapist Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, the President said:

"What we can say is that we will respect the rights of the plaintiff [and] of the accused. We will follow the due process of the law. When it comes to any criminal case, it is not really the executive who has the final say. It is the judiciary, and they are constitutionally independent."

She then asked Ebdane to explain the provisions of the Sofa, no copy of which was made available to reporters.

Criminal jurisdiction

Ebdane told reporters that the repeal of the Philippine death penalty law last year had made it easier for both countries to agree on the terms of the Sofa.

He said criminal jurisdiction would be "dependent on the rules of court of the receiving country."

Should an Australian soldier visiting the Philippines be convicted of a crime, the Australian government is bound to honor Philippine laws, Ebdane said, adding:

"If he's convicted in a Philippine court, then he will have to serve his sentence in a Philippine court."

But even before conviction, erring Australian soldiers or military personnel will be under Philippine jurisdiction for the duration of the trial.

"Whether in the Philippines or in Australia, of course, the investigation will be conducted by the local police organization," Ebdane said.

"Even if the official or a participating individual from the sending state is under the custody of a receiving state, the moment the warrant is issued, the receiving state will have to take control and physical possession," he said.

Ebdane also said the accused would have to remain in the receiving country while the conviction was under appeal.

He added that if there was a warrant for the erring soldier's arrest, "or he's convicted and not allowed to [post] bail, he will have to be in jail."

Ebdane refused to compare the Sofa with the VFA: "Maybe we can talk about it later because ... I think there should be no parallelism."

He assured Australian reporters that Australian soldiers convicted of a heinous crime would not be meted capital punishment. "We don't have a death penalty, so that can't be done," he said.

No basing rights

Under the Sofa, there will neither be basing rights nor a combat role for Australian troops in the Philippines.

"Nothing," said Ebdane. "It's only for training and education, for disaster relief and [infrastructure] development."

Ebdane said the treaty had to be ratified by the Philippine Senate to become operative, and to do that, the defense department had to court the senators' approval.

"[We] have to talk to them. I even have to inform our citizenry about the advantages [of the Sofa]. When we [return to the Philippines], we will do that," he said.

Ebdane said the Sofa was the second to be forged after the VFA and would pave the way for more such agreements with neighboring military powers.

"In any exercise, we really have to have documents to authorize the presence [of visiting troops]. We're working with other neighbor countries like Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam," he said.

2 agreements

Prime Minister Howard said two "important agreements" were signed yesterday—the Sofa and an agreement related to aid strategy.

He said Australia's foreign minister had announced "a quarter of a million dollars toward certain human rights projects in the Philippines."

Howard said that with the signing of the treaty, the Philippines was no longer a weak link in the war against terror.

"I think there have been significantly successful steps taken against terrorism by the Philippines, working very closely with Australia and other countries," he said.

Asked by the INQUIRER whether the Sofa would erase Australia's perception that Southern Philippines was a haven for terrorists, Howard said: "We think real measured progress has been made. It's not easy, but the numbers have been contained, in many areas reduced."

On home grounds, the militant fisherfolk alliance Pamalakaya and the environmental activist group Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) said the Sofa was intended to protect Australian business interests, particularly its mining operations, in the Philippines.

In separate statements, the two groups said that Australia wanted direct and indirect involvement in Philippine military affairs to make sure its mining operations would be protected by Filipino-Australian troops.

"This is a clear case of political and military intervention, and economic and environmental sabotage rolled into one," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

According to Kalikasan-PNE national coordinator Clemente Bautista, more Australian companies are aiming for or have mining projects in the Philippines.

He said BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining corporation based in Melbourne, was planning a multimillion-dollar nickel project in Pujada Peninsula, Davao Oriental, in partnership with local mining firms Hallmark Mining Corp. and AustraAsia Link Mining Corp.

He added that other Australian mining companies—like the Medusa Mining in Eastern Mindanao, Red 5 in Siana in Surigao del Norte, Indophil in South Cotabato and Climax-Arimco in Surigao del Norte—wanted to expand operations. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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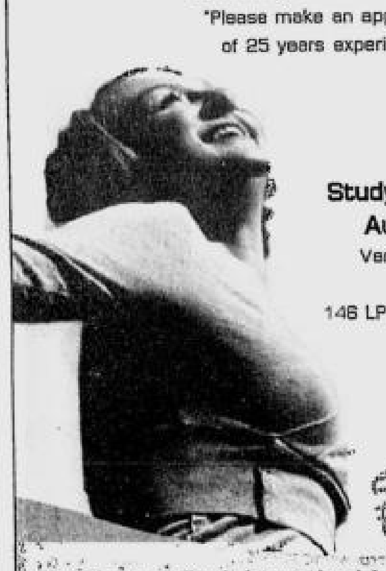

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tripmart

Mountaineer ...

From page A1

Noelle Wenceslao of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE)—scaled the peak and became the first women from Southeast Asia to achieve the feat. The female trio were expected to come home last night.

On May 17 last year, three other Filipinos—Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata of the FPMEE, and Romeo Garduce—became the country's first Everest summiteers.

Pablo said he was one of five adventurers who made it to the summit out of a 12-member international expedition, which also included four Americans, two Japanese, two Brazilians, a Czech, a Belgian and a German.

A former member of the FPMEE that split up after the 2006 expedition over personal and money problems, Pablo pursued his dream with funding from the telecommunications company he worked for.

"Honestly, until now, it has yet to sink in ... I was wasted upon reaching the top. But still, I was fulfilled ... not just happy but fulfilled because I have been planning for this for a long time, and I did it on my own," he said.

Pablo attributed his success to what he said was the Filipino's innate ability to cope.

Reasons to turn back

On top of its brutal weather, thin atmosphere and deadly terrain of crevasses and steep inclines, the mountain gave Pablo more reasons to turn back.

As the members of the international expedition camped with their sherpas (guides) at 8,300 meters before the final push, a Japanese and a Czech climber succumbed to oxygen starvation—less than 600 meters from the top.

"Those who died were strong climbers compared to me, far stronger. They died because they decided to use only a little oxygen," Pablo said.

"The Japanese was found by his fellow Japanese, while the Czech was seen by the sherpas as he expired. He just suddenly collapsed, as if he had a heart attack."

The deaths prompted two American climbers to turn back. "They gave up because they became afraid ... They were no longer confident," Pablo said.

With an ample oxygen supply, four other members of the expedition made it to the summit. Pablo said he made it to the top because his body "was built for high altitude."

Temporary setback

At one point during the ascent, however, Pablo said he was forced to go down to the Everest base camp because he had fallen ill, suffering from hyperacidity.

The descent set him back four days, but his return to the team's camp site helped him gradually adjust to the Everest cold.

Intent on reaching the top, the rest of the expedition pushed ahead, leaving their dead colleagues behind in the snow.

"The bodies were left there. There was a waiver," Pablo said.

Those who dare to climb the mountain are made to sign a waiver—an agreement that their bodies will be left on the mountain should they die during the expedition.

Pablo explained the rationale for the waiver: In the event of a death, survivors would be too weak to bring down the bodies of dead colleagues.

Unfazed by deaths

The thought of suffering the same fate as the Japanese and the Czech climbers crossed Pablo's mind as his team proceeded to scale the Everest's north face, but the Filipino was unfazed. He lost half of his left thumb to frostbite during an October 2006 climb up the 8,201-meter-high Mt. Cho-Oyu, the world's sixth tallest peak.

"I was really determined to climb. I thought to myself, whatever you throw at me, I will summit," he said.

Finally, around 9 a.m. (Nepal time) on May 17, he set foot on the Everest peak, fulfilling a dream he had set for himself 15 years ago.

His breathless 15 minutes on the summit of the world seemed like a scene in slow motion, a moment in which joy mixed with exhaustion.

"I told myself, 'This is it.' You can't describe the feeling. It was so hard. At the same time, you'd see dead climbers along the way ... I counted eight," Pablo said.

'I gave up a lot'

Reaching the summit made up for everything he gave up just to reach his goal.

"I gave up a lot just to be here. I gave up my career, spent three years of my life working for this project. I left my work temporarily. I lost 15 kilos during the climb," he said.

"I'm really, really proud. Even the sherpas there, even other nationalities were really proud because they saw how I struggled. I achieved my goal despite the fact that I was by myself," Pablo added.

No red carpet welcome or a victory parade welcomed Pablo on his homecoming, but that didn't diminish his feeling of victory.

"There was no record I was trying to reach. I've given up that mentality a long time ago ... It's a personal [pursuit] and I want to prove that I can do it," he said.

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VIP treatment? Pacman's HS diploma questioned

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"HOW COULD MANNY PACQUIAO have passed the exam when he never even made it to high school?" "Was this a case of special treatment given to a VIP?"

So went some of the "many e-mail" messages received by the Department of Education questioning its announcement early this year that Pacquiao had passed the High School Accreditation and Equivalency or A & E test.

At the DepEd main office in Pasig City, some employees expressed the same doubts.

"It's obvious this was nothing but a case of a VIP given special treatment by the GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) administration," said one staffer, obviously not a Pacquiao fan.

"We were not born yesterday," said another, a DepEd old-timer who called it a "PR stunt."

A report by the DepEd's Bureau of Alternative Learning System or BALS furnished the INQUIRER acknowledged that "while many easily accepted (the department's) announcement, some were skeptical and even critical."

But Director Carolina Guerrero, head of BALS, the body that conducted the nonformal education exam in February in various parts of the country, asserted "there was no foul play."

The DepEd had earlier named the popular boxer a special ambassador for its Alternative Learning System and the "People's Champ for Education."

"The results of the annual test were processed, analyzed and scored not by the DepEd but by a reputable and credible private research organization—the Center for Educational Measurement. Because of the intent to make him ALS ambassador, his (test) paper was checked immediately," Guerrero explained.

According to DepEd records, Pacquiao scored 82 percent in communication skills, 82 percent in English comprehension and 66 percent in Math and Science.

In the tests called "Pagpapalawak ng Pananaw" and "Likas na Yaman," he got 86 and 70 percent, respectively.

Pacquiao's overall ratings were 70 percent correct (PC), a standard score (SS) of 95 percent and a percentile rank (PR) of 70 percent.

Guerrero said the A & E test was made up of 250 multiple choice questions.

"For experts in test development, a good multiple choice question should be able to discriminate between one who is only guessing and one who truly knows the answer. The fact that Manny Pacquiao passed the test only proved that he [knew] the correct answers from among the seemingly correct ones," she said.

The test, she said, included an essay portion where he wrote about his mother as "Ang Tao na Aking Hinahangaan" (The Person I Admire Most).

Guerrero noted the test questions were "written in English and Filipino following the bilingual policy of the DepEd."

"We all know that Manny Pacquiao has acquired a very rich experience both here and abroad and has thus become quite an *Inglesero* (English speaker) as well as a good Filipino speaker," she said.

Guerrero also observed that "during interviews, one could easily sense Pacquiao's intelligence as he deftly answers questions, considering his educational attainment is only the sixth grade which he completed several years ago."

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Mountain resort attracts election 'rice traders'

From page A1

dates and political parties, top officials of election watchdog groups and their volunteer lawyers, and journalists from Manila.

Present as well were the politicians' wives, most of whom were supposedly running most of the rice-trading operations.

Also at the clubhouse were women whose husbands were connected to Malacañang, who were in big groups and who placed large orders for food.

Retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the controversial ex-Army official accused by leftists of masterminding the killing of political activists in areas where he was assigned, was supposedly also seen at the clubhouse.

A Malacañang director, with staff members trailing him, was likewise seen entering and leaving the MSU alumni hostel before, during and after the May 26 special elections in Lanao del Sur.

Even Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who was assigned here as a Marine officer in 1971-72, was around.

But Biazon said he was in Marawi to personally ensure that the votes of independent Gregorio Honasan, as well as those of the Genuine Opposition's Antonio Trillanes IV and Aquilino Pimentel III (both in the "danger zone" of the Top 12 senatorial candidates) were protected from the operators.

"Lanao Sur is an area of concern. It's like 2004 all over again—the same modus operandi, the same names, the same areas," Biazon said in an interview on Saturday night.

Not sole target

The senatorial race is not the operators' only target, Sumndad said.

An operator, who claimed to have worked for a fast-talking senator and for President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 2004 elections, said there were "deals" being negotiated for three Team Unity (TU) senatorial candidates and certain party-list groups.

The operator said the party-list groups Bantay Bayan and Uni-Mad (United Movement Against Drugs) had sought help in producing 40,000 votes and 50,000 votes, respectively: "They said that was all they needed to get at least one seat [in the House of Representatives]."

The request was purportedly rejected because the operator's group had chosen to focus on the hotly contested local elections.

Bantay Bayan's nominees include Palparan. Those of Uni-Mad include retired Generals Enrique Galang and Alphonsus Crucero, a classmate of both Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino at the Philippine Military Academy.

Not actually zero

In Cotabato City, Moro groups assailed the Genuine Opposition (GO) for purportedly insulting the residents of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and called for the canvass of the votes in Maguindanao.

The GO had earlier said the 12-0 TU sweep of the elections in Maguindanao was unbelievable and only showed that fraud had taken place.

But Maguindanao officials said the TU victory was a simple demonstration of how the leadership worked in the province.

Provincial administrator Norie Unas told radio station dxMS that an examination of Maguindanao's certificate of canvass (CoC) would show that the GO did not actually score zero.

He said there were people who voted for GO candidates but these votes did not help them land in the Top 12.

Unas also said the TU won in the province because of its leadership's support for the President.

"Whatever will be the results of the problem, Maguindanao will remain a bailiwick of President Macapagal-Arroyo," he said.

But GO spokesperson Adel Tamano said on television that the opposition had witnesses to the supposed fraud in Maguindanao.

Tamano said the witnesses were teachers who served in the May 14 elections.

Muslim vote

The allegations of fraud have prompted the Commission on Elections to conduct an investigation and set aside the CoC from Maguindanao.

But the ARMM groups said the Comelec should proceed with the canvass of the Maguindanao votes.

"Let the Muslim vote be counted instead of heeding the unsubstantiated charges by the GO and its allied groups of alleged large-scale fraud in Maguindanao," the groups said in a statement.

The statement was signed by Professor Bert Macapanton of the Ranaw Watch for Good Governance; Sultan Topaan Disomimba, representing 16 royal sultanates of Lanao; Sultan Muniloda Dimaporo, representing 28 legislative bodies of the royal sultanates of Lanao; Abdulcader Manda of the Muslim Movement for Good Governance; Allema Asleya Manalao of Mostaqbal; Kadil Kali of the United Maguindanaoan Association of the Philippines Inc.; Gary Acas of the Reform Lanao Youth Movement; Datu Antao Midtimbang of Al Muslimin Alpha Phi Inc.; and Sultan Mohammad T. Bano of Kapdi.

"The invalidation of all the votes cast in Maguindanao betrays the historic prejudice about Muslim Filipinos being unable to vote freely and count ballots honestly," the groups also said.

They said the GO had been "maligning the integrity of Muslims."

No bias

But Tamano, himself a Muslim, said the issue was not motivated by bias.

"As a Muslim, I would never allow it to happen," he said, adding that cheating should be condemned whoever was involved.

In a statement, Tamano pointed out that the law prohibiting election fraud made no distinction on religion.

"That genuine equality means that the law must be applied equally, regardless of race, creed or religion," he said. *With reports from Jeoffrey Maitem and Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao*

PARTY-LIST VOTES

Comelec as of 6 p.m., May 31

Rank	Group	Votes
1	BUHAY	1,068,226
2	BAYAN MUNA	890,317
3	CIBAC	698,387
4	GABRIELA	552,938
5	APEC	474,823
6	A TEACHER	440,039
7	AKBAYAN	414,903
8	BUTIL	396,970
9	ALAGAD	387,953
10	BATAS	350,901
11	COOP-NATCCO	346,462
12	ANAKPAWIS	335,005
13	ABONO	333,141
14	AGAP	306,717
15	ARC	294,186
16	AN WARAY	269,079
17	AMIN	249,713
18	FPJPM	249,095
19	ABS	212,691
20	KABATAAN	208,071
21	ABA-AKO	203,157
22	SENIOR CITIZENS	193,708
23	KAKUSA	187,343
24	UNI-MAD	181,016
25	ANAD	168,967
26	VFP	165,432
27	ABAKADA	155,814
28	BANAT	155,078
29	BANTAY	154,121
30	1-UTAK	150,301

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US, Iran listed far down in peacefulness . . .

From page A1

The same study classified Norway as the most peaceful country and Iraq the least.

The Philippines was at No. 100, ahead of Thailand and Burma (Myanmar) but behind other Southeast Asian countries, such as Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia.

The Global Peace Index rated 121 countries from Algeria to Zimbabwe on 24 factors, including levels of violence, organized crime and military expenditure. The data were drawn from the United Nations, the World Bank, peace groups and the intelligence unit's own assessments. Some 80 countries, such as Afghanistan and North Korea, were not included in the study because reliable information was not available.

"The United States suffers because it is the world's policeman, with high levels of militarization," Andrew Williamson, director for economic research, said in an interview.

Wake-up call

The Global Peace Index, published a week before a Group of Eight (G8) summit in Germany, should serve as "a wake-up call for leaders around the globe," said Steve Killelea, an Australian entrepreneur and philanthropist who commissioned the study.

"Countries like Japan and Germany can give hope and optimism to countries further down the index that there can be light at the end of what may seem at the moment like a very dark tunnel," Killelea added.

Norway, the peace-promoting Scandinavian country which brokered the 1993 Oslo Mideast accords and has also sought to resolve fighting in Sri Lanka, was followed by New Zealand, Denmark, Ireland, Japan, Finland, Sweden, Canada, Portugal and Austria.

Iraq, which has been gripped by growing violence since the the 2003 US-led invasion of the country, was in last place, with Sudan and Israel nearest in standing to the embattled Middle Eastern country.

Among the "indicators" used to compile the index were wars fought in the last five years, arms sales, prison populations and incidence of crime.

"The United States arguably has kept the peace since 1945, but with a high level of defense spending," Leo Abruzzese, an editorial director for the intelligence unit, said at a news conference at which the report was released. A large prison population also contributed to the relatively low US ranking.

Not a value judgment

"It is not a value judgment," Abruzzese said of the global rankings.

"We are just mechanics and technicians behind the index ... We are not making judgments about foreign policy," Williamson explained.

The index is backed by international figures, including the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former US President Jimmy Carter and US economist Joseph Stiglitz, all Nobel Prize laureates. It is also supported by Queen Noor of Jordan.

Overall, the study found that small, stable countries which are part of regional blocs, such as the 27-nation European Union, are most likely to be more peaceful.

Western Europe still ended up as the most peaceful region in the world, although France was ranked 34th and Britain 49th. Levels of militarization, sophisticated weapons industries and arms exports pushed these two countries down the list.

In Central and Eastern Europe, the Czech Republic led the way, in 13th place, while Russia finished last in the region and 118th overall.

Income and education are also crucial in promoting peace, the study said.

It also noted that countries, which had turbulent times in the 20th century, such as Ireland and Austria, have emerged as "peace leaders" in the 21st century.

"I believe there is a link between the peacefulness and the wealth of nations and therefore business has a key role to play in peace," Killelea said.

Useful tool

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Buddhist leader who fled China after an aborted uprising in 1959, said the launch of the index could be a useful tool for policymakers.

"Compiling and maintaining an index of which countries are the most peaceful and publishing the results will undoubtedly make the factors and qualities that contribute to that status better known, and will encourage people to foster them in their own countries," he said.

Organizers say the plan is to publish the index annually for the next two years, while after that the frequency with which it is updated will be reviewed.

"The Global Peace Index is a groundbreaking milestone in the study of peace," said the introduction to the study, noting that it was the first study to rank nations worldwide by their peacefulness. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Global Peace Index

Following is a list of the most peaceful and least peaceful countries in the world, published as the Global Peace Index in London.

1. Norway
2. New Zealand
3. Denmark
4. Ireland
5. Japan
6. Finland
7. Sweden
8. Canada
9. Portugal
10. Austria
11. Belgium
12. Germany
13. Czech
14. Switzerland
15. Slovenia
16. Chile
17. Slovakia
18. Hungary
19. Bhutan
20. Netherlands
21. Spain
22. Oman
23. Hong Kong
24. Uruguay
25. Australia
26. Romania
27. Poland
28. Estonia
29. Singapore
30. Qatar
31. Costa Rica
32. South Korea
33. Italy
34. France
35. Vietnam
36. Taiwan
37. Malaysia
38. United Arab Emirates
39. Tunisia
40. Ghana
41. Madagascar
42. Botswana
43. Lithuania
44. Greece
45. Panama
46. Kuwait
47. Latvia
48. Morocco
49. United Kingdom
50. Mozambique
51. Cyprus
52. Argentina
53. Zambia
54. Bulgaria
55. Paraguay
56. Gabon
57. Tanzania
58. Libya
59. Cuba
60. China
61. Kazakhstan
62. Bahrain
63. Jordan
64. Namibia
65. Senegal
66. Nicaragua
67. Croatia
68. Malawi
69. Bolivia
70. Peru
71. Equatorial Guinea
72. Moldova
73. Egypt
74. Dominican Republic
75. Bosnia and Hercegovina
76. Cameroon
77. Syria
78. Indonesia
79. Mexico
80. Ukraine
81. Jamaica
82. Macedonia
83. Brazil
84. Serbia
85. Cambodia
86. Bangladesh
87. Ecuador
88. Papua New Guinea
89. El Salvador
90. Saudi Arabia
91. Kenya
92. Turkey
93. Guatemala
94. Trinidad and Tobago
95. Yemen
96. United States of America
97. Iran
98. Honduras
99. South Africa
100. Philippines
101. Azerbaijan
102. Venezuela
103. Ethiopia
104. Uganda
105. Thailand
106. Zimbabwe
107. Algeria
108. Burma (Myanmar)
109. India
110. Uzbekistan
111. Sri Lanka
112. Angola
113. Ivory Coast
114. Lebanon
115. Pakistan
116. Colombia
117. Nigeria
118. Russia
119. Israel
120. Sudan
121. Iraq

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Joromat, Annabell R
Zamora, Patricio F

Zamboanga (4)
Gomez, Gertrudesa G.
Indanan, Arip J.
Isa, Ahamadul A.
Iturralde, Raymundo L.

Government Service Insurance System
Kahit saan, kahit kailan, maaasahan

British embassy now using biometrics in new visa center

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE BRITISH EMBASSY YESTERDAY FORmally introduced a new visa screening system using biometrics to process applicants bound for the United Kingdom.

The biometric data collection process, the first to be implemented in Southeast Asia, requires applicants to go through a digital finger-scanning and photographing process.

UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham, who led the inauguration of the new UK Visa Application Center (UKVAC) at the Phil. AVA Building in Makati, said the process would make the visa application process faster and safer for Filipinos wanting to travel, work or reside in the UK.

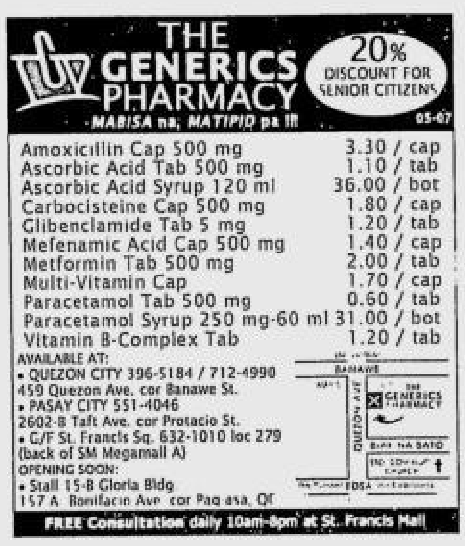
"It is in the interest of our government and our customers that we provide a system of identification that protects everyone from fraud, identity theft, terrorism and organized crime," Beckingham said.

Beckingham said the UKVAC was the second British investment in the Philippines in two days.

Earlier, the HSBC opened a new office in the Philippines with 900 people.

"This is another proof of development and it's a sign that we are taking the Philippines very seriously. We hope that the new system which we are introducing will make travel easier and more efficient for every Filipino," he said.

Beckingham said the visa screening process using biometrics was also being introduced by the United States and other member-countries of the European Union.



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Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(PROCUREMENT OF PA ARMORED VEHICLE FIREPOWER UPGRADE PROJECT)

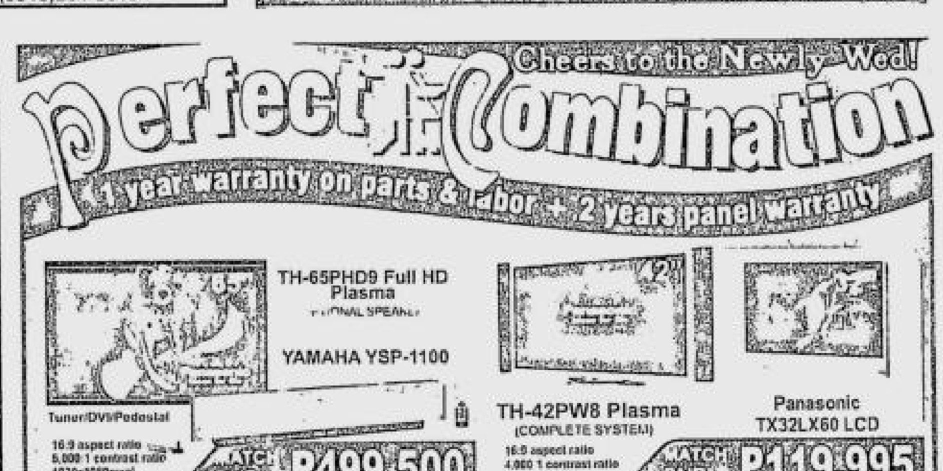
The project involves the supply and delivery of fourteen (14) units 7.62mm multi-barreled "Gatling-type" guns with complete accessories and their Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package.

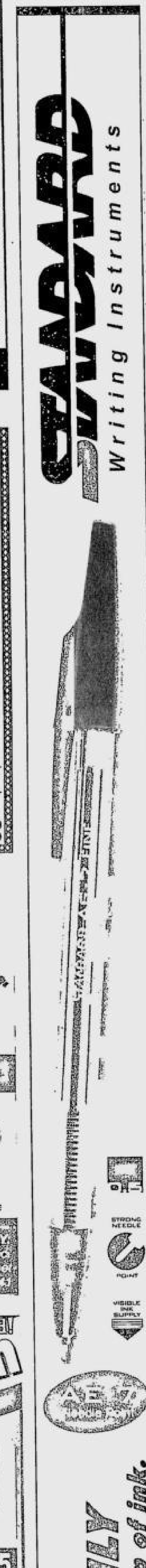
1. The Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) Number D-07-00818 dated January 18, 2007, intends to apply the sum of *SIXTY FIVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO PESOS AND NINETY FOUR CENTAVOS (PhP65,882,352.94)* being the total *Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)* to payments under the contract for the Armored Vehicle (AV) Firepower Upgrade Project and its Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package.
2. The DND/AFP now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the bidding of Armored Vehicle (AV) Firepower Upgrade Project and its Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package. Delivery of GOODS is required within a period of One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A* (IRR-A) of *Republic Act No. 9184* (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "*Government Procurement Reform Act*," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in *Section II* of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the *Lowest Calculated Bid* (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the *Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder* (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *DND Bids and Awards Committee* (DND BAC) *Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM., Monday to Friday excluding Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 25,000). The method of payment will be in cash or thru cashier's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 13, 2007 at 2:00 P.M., DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before July 12, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on July 12, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only bids from manufacturers or their authorized representative of the aforementioned system/equipment will be entertained.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to *DND BAC Cir 01-2005* dated 12 May 2005.
11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Secretariat
DND Building, Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No: (632) 911-6001 local 8414
Telefax No: (632) 421-3531
Email: bacsecretariat@dnd.gov.ph
Website: www.dnd.gov.ph

(Sgd.) DIR GLADYS M CAGADOC
Vice Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI – June 1, 2007)





2 factions feuding over Buhay party-list seats

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WITH PARTY-LIST BUHAY ALMOST certain to win three seats, two factions within the organization are now engaged in a bitter fight over who will represent the group in Congress.

Two sets of nominees have been submitted to the Commission on Elections. One was sent by Buhay president Mel Robles, whose first nominee is Rene Velarde, son of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

The other list was submitted by Hans Christian Señeres, who represented Buhay—together with the young Velarde—in the last Congress, where they had won two seats. Señeres' list is led by himself.

The Comelec has yet to decide which list it should recognize. When it was forced to release the names of party-list group nominees, Comelec released both lists.

According to Robles, Señeres' list "is not an authorized list." He charged that the list was composed of non-Buhay members. He added that the Buhay national council has expelled Señeres for "actions inimical" to the organization.

Robles told the INQUIRER in an interview that Señeres submitted his own list of nominees after the council informed him that he (Señeres) would not be among the nominees this year because it was giving other members a chance to sit in Congress.

"His feelings might have been hurt so he decided to have his own set of nominees," Robles opined.

Señeres, on the other hand, questioned Robles' position as president of the organization. In a separate interview with the INQUIRER, he claimed Robles, the administrator of the Light Railway Transit Authority, could be considered resigned because the law disallows government officials from joining political parties.

In the absence of a president, he, as secretary-general of Buhay, was the right authority to submit a set of nominees, Señeres argued.

"Under the Constitution, the Civil Service Law and the Omnibus Elections Code, you cannot be in government and at the same time be a member of the party, much less an officer of a party. By operation of law, he is ipso facto resigned," Señeres, a financial planner, said.

Robles belied Señeres' claims. He maintained he was still the president and chair of Buhay, citing his "freedom to associate."

The first set of nominees, according to the Comelec, are: Señeres, Hermenigildo Dumlao, Antonio Bautista, Victor Pablo Trinidad and Eduardo Solangon Jr.

Robles' nominees are: Velarde, Ma. Carissa Coscolluela, William Irwin Tieng, Melchor Monsod and Teresita Villarama.

As of the latest tally with 89 percent of local CoCs canvassed, Buhay has garnered about eight percent of the party-list votes cast or 1.064 million votes, leaving former party-list topnotcher Bayan Muna lagging by 192,965 votes.

A party-list group, representing a marginalized sector, must get 2 percent of the total votes cast in the May 14 elections to obtain one seat in the House of Representatives, up to a maximum of three seats.

The influencial head of the Catholic charismatic El Shaddai had actively campaigned for Buhay this year.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo was critical of Velarde's "political deals" with mainstream parties. Ocampo said a reported requisite for Velarde's endorsement of 18 senatorial candidates was their support for Buhay, and this was instrumental in Buhay's pacesetting performance in the May 14 polls.

"This time, they maximized their political leverage," Ocampo said, adding that this showed the need to review the party-list system and see whether it still really represented "marginalized groups."

Señeres, however, said he wanted to debunk public perception that it was El Shaddai that delivered the votes for Buhay.

While it was true that El Shaddai actively endorsed Buhay, he claimed the Iglesia Ni Cristo, another religious group, delivered "significant" votes for the "prolife" organization.

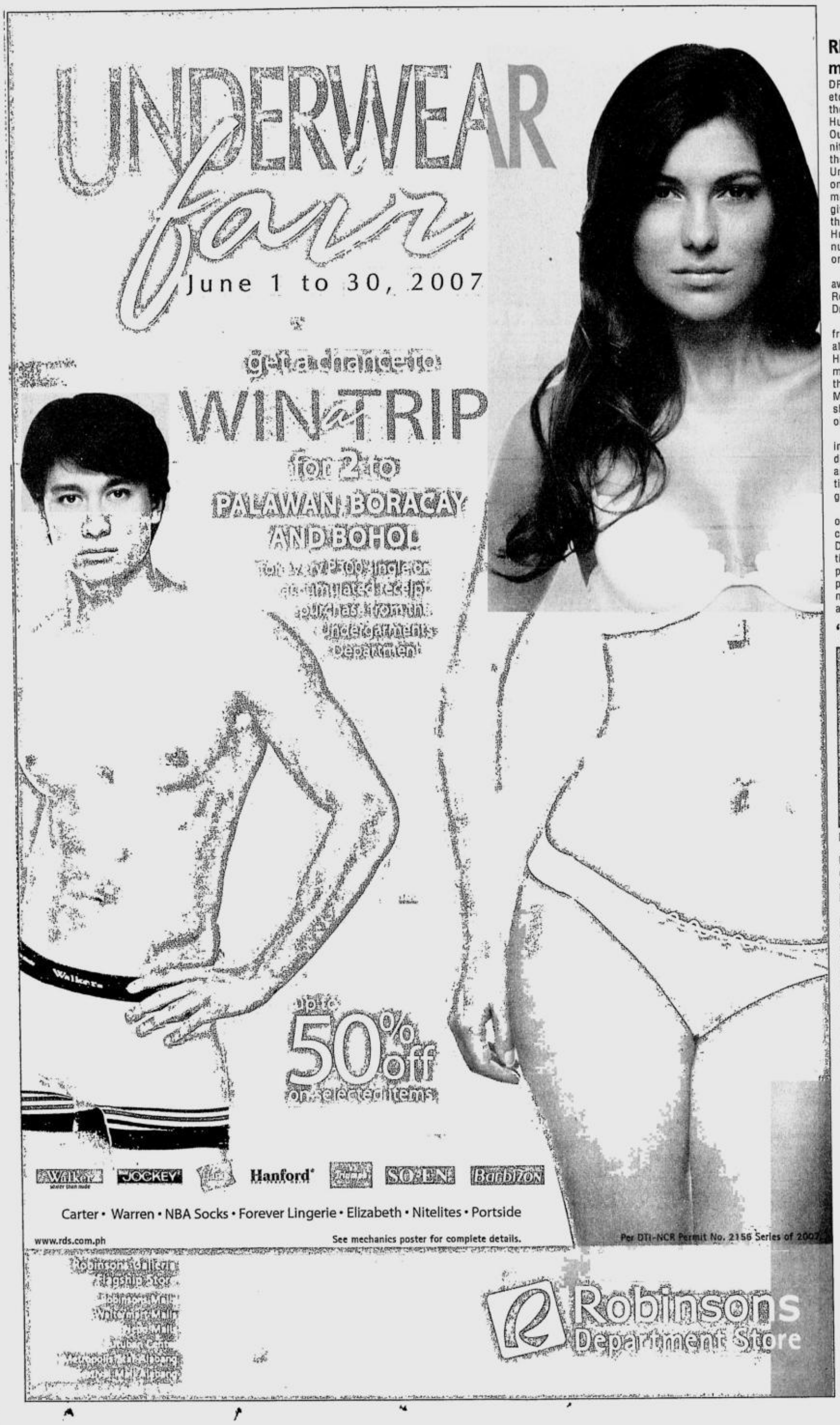
He said that when Buhay first ran for party-list seats in the 2001 elections, and relied solely on El Shaddai support, it garnered only 290,000 votes and failed to win a seat.

Señeres, who joined the organization in 2000, said Buhay expanded its support base in the 2004 elections with the help of other religious organizations, including the INC, and earned themselves two congressional seats based on their 705,000 votes.

(Another party-list group in 2004, Alagad, claimed the support of INC.)

The party advocates the conservative, prolife position against abortion and artificial family planning methods. Señeres and Velarde also spoke out in Congress for the lifting of the death penalty law.

Robles countered by saying it was not important who delivered the most votes for Buhay. "There are many religious groups helping Buhay. What is important to us is that many people believe in our advocacy," he said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*



NEWSBRIEFS

RP doc is Michigan State medicine faculty awardee

PRIETO

DR. ANDREW PRIeto is the recipient of the 2007 College of Human Medicine Outstanding Community Faculty Award of the Michican State University. He was one of three faculty members who were given recognition in the MSU College of Human Medicine annual faculty awards on May 16.

The other two awardees were Dr. Robert Smith, Distinguished Faculty award; and Dr. Davoren Chick, CHM Teacher-Scholar award.

Dr. Prieto received his medical degree from the University of Santo Tomas where he also did his clinical training and internship. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Makati Med and went on to the United States for his MSU Internal Medicine Residency and completed Fellowships in Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology.

Dr. Prieto is currently employed part-time in a fully clinical position and he teaches residents, house staff and students in inpatient and outpatient settings. Moreover, he takes times from his busy schedule to prepare and give first-class lectures for the house staff.

Dr. Prieto's current research is "Accuracy of Hemostat Method in Femoral Artery Access" and "Effects of Acute Glycemic Control During Percutaneous Coronary Intervention." He also has a US patent for "Arch-support" carotid artery guide catheter as the principal investigator. He has also published numerous articles and given many national and local presentations.

'Noli' art exhibit

LORENZO'S Rizal

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute will open today the exhibit, "Jose Rizal's Noli Me Tangere—Oil Paintings by Leonardo" at the Rizal Shrine in Fort Santiago, Intramuros. The exhibit comprises 28 paintings depicting scenes from the Noli and a portrait of Rizal, all by Leonardo Cruz, whose previous works celebrate the Philippines' rich cultural heritage of dances, legends, myths and folklore. The present collection expands the scope of his art into the realm of Philippine literature.

One of the country's noted illustrators before he focused on paintings, Cruz has held several one-man shows and participated in several group shows at the National Museum, Ayala Museum, Lopez Museum, Hidalgo Gallery, Gallery Y and Gallery Genesis, and in the 1st International Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings held in China in 1991, as well as in the "Afternoon with the Masters" held in 1993 at the Ayala Center in Makati.

Descendants of the siblings of Rizal, as well as diplomats, government officials, cultural affairs officials, artists, business and civic leaders and educators have been invited to the opening. The exhibit will run up to June 14.

Trees for the 'desaparecidos'

THE ASIAN FEDERATION Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and the Claimants 1081 will conduct a tree planting activity at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani at 7 a.m. today. With the theme "In the Name of Justice, Stop Disappearances! Ratify the UN Convention Protecting All Persons from Enforced Disappearance!" the activity will be highlighted by the planting of 10 trees representing the desaparecidos from Asian countries.

On behalf of the French government, which principally sponsored the recently adopted UN Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel will reiterate France's call on all governments to sign and ratify the Convention.

Editha Burgos, mother of the missing agriculturist Jonas Burgos and widow of the late press freedom icon Joe Burgos, is expected to attend the event. Representatives from AFAD member organizations from various parts of Asia will also grace the occasion.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 173

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

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A class act

NAMFREL SAYS THERE ARE STILL A MILLION votes left to count. Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesman of the administration's Team Unity, says the number is more like five million. But for senatorial candidate Michael Defensor, the end of the road has been reached.

EDITORIAL

Nick Joaquin once wrote that no one could forget Claro M. Recto's admission of defeat, after his failed presidential bid in 1957: "*Tapos na ang boksing.*" Few may remember, even just a year from now, what Defensor said Wednesday in his statement conceding defeat. But what he said sent a momentary thrill, at least, through a nation that has seen too many candidates who are unwilling to face reality.

"I concede because I love my family and I want my children to learn that there is honor in defeat," Defensor said. And he was right, and he deservedly earned applause for pointing out what many of his political peers forget: It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. As it is in sports, so it is in politics, so should it be in life.

For a rare, shining moment, Defensor was a class act.

After 15 years of success in politics, this is Defensor's first failure. His admission of defeat, rare in itself for a politician, was accompanied by an even rarer demonstration of political awareness. Speaking of himself in the third person, he said: "I am saddened that he would not be part of the 14th Congress. My unsolicited advice to him is to reinvent himself, show his independence from President Arroyo. He deserves to be seen as more than an apologist of the President."

A passing moment of self-awareness? Perhaps. So much for the "this-election-wasn't-a-referendum-on-the-President" argument. But then again, Defensor is young, and he can afford to be realistic.

Still, he went on to prove himself grateful for past support: "My defeat is not the President's loss. Her role is to ensure that democracy is respected and that she has accomplished. The market is up and the peso is strongest. That is the applause of appreciation."

For Defensor, the certainty of defeat was shown by the numbers. In 15th place in the official counting, he said it was "numerically impossible" for him to end up inside the winners' circle.

It is in the context of this political calculation that another portion of his concession statement seems pregnant with political meaning. In the same press conference, Defensor said: "I concede to ease the tension on the ground and to dismiss [a] notion that there may be illegal acts committed to attain my victory. I concede so as to enjoin my allies and friends who may want, in their desire to have me win, commit acts inimical to the essence of democracy and fair play in an electoral battle."

What did he mean? Who was he referring to? What does he know? And what are the implications for his fellow Team Unity candidates who remain defiantly optimistic of electoral success? In 13th, 14th and 16th places are administration candidates—Defensor's fellow candidates—who, Evardone and other TU spokesmen insist, will still make it.

Defensor probably meant that he knew all the pork barrel in the world meant nothing, if victory came at the price of a publicly acceptable mandate. And he was referring to the fact that there are operators, not even necessarily working at the behest of the administration, but rather, open to the highest bidder, trying to change the voting result. He knows it, because everybody knows it.

It's the implications of his statement that are a cause for public concern. Could it be that by sacrificing his ambitions, and those of Prospero Pichay (whose election, if Defensor's is impossible, must be impossible, too), Defensor would be giving an unwitting boost to the operators out there? They could claim they can still ensure either Zubiri or Recto, at 13th and 14th places, making it to the magic circle.

The answer will be known in the coming days, if Defensor's numbers stop changing while those of his fellow administration candidates do. The class act is over; the need for vigilance continues. And the pressure on Defensor's party mates to match his effort at statesmanship will become increasingly impossible to ignore.

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GSIS sues NPC for 'theft' of Manansala mural

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE IS THE LATEST ON THE NATIONAL Press Club versus Government Service Insurance System controversy over the "theft and sale" of the Vicente Manansala mural painted on a wall of the NPC building which is owned by the GSIS.

The alleged officers of the NPC are being very quiet about it, but the GSIS has made good its threat to sue them for selling the mural without its permission. The GSIS also filed a civil case for ejectment against the NPC. The GSIS named as defendants Roy Mabasa, alleged NPC president, and all the 13 alleged members of the board. A GSIS official said they might also include in the criminal complaint Mario and Odette Alcantara, owners of Heritage Arts and Antiques that brokered the sale, and the mysterious buyer of the mural.

Copies of the complaints have been served on the NPC, but it has not disclosed this to its members. No press release, no announcement, no nothing, just silence.

The criminal case for qualified theft was filed with the Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila (IS No. 07E-06458) on May 2, 2007, and the civil case for ejectment with the Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila (Case No. 183663), also last May 2.

In its complaint-affidavit, the GSIS said the NPC board, led by Mabasa, caused the removal of a wall with the famous Manansala mural painted on it and sold the same without the consent of the GSIS. It said the NPC directors who approved the sale are "guilty of qualified theft" under Article 10 in relation to Article 3008 of the Revised Penal Code.

"There was theft because respondents took the mural owned by GSIS without its consent, with the intent to gain. In fact, they profited from the sale of the property by P10 million," the GSIS said. "The theft is definitely qualified because it was accomplished with grave abuse of confidence."

It added that the NPC has wronged the GSIS members as well. "The properties of GSIS are in fact properties of its members, our public servants. The appalling ungratefulness of respondents in selling this prized work of art is thus not only a violation of GSIS' rights but the rights of its members as well," the GSIS stressed.

A GSIS official said that if the government corporation did not recover its properties, its members and the Office of the Ombudsman could sue its officials for dereliction of duty.

The GSIS had confirmed the sale last Jan. 25 after three of its officials went to the building and saw that a new, freshly painted wall was installed in the place of the lawanit wall on which the Manansala mural was painted.

On the same day, the GSIS served a demand letter to the NPC demanding the return of the mural within 10 days.

However, Mabasa, in a letter sent to the GSIS last Feb. 2, refused to comply with the GSIS demand while also admitting the sale of the mural.

On the ejectment case, the GSIS asked the Manila court to order the NPC and all persons claiming rights under it to vacate and surrender possession of the property to it. It also asked the NPC to pay reasonable compensation for the use of its property at the rate of P910,000 a month, computed from the date of demand to vacate up until they finally move out of the lot and building, with legal interest of 12 percent per annum, until fully paid. It also asked for P50,000 in attorney's fees and litigation costs.

* * *

Tracing the ownership of the NPC lot and building, the GSIS said the NPC used to own the 4,288-sq m parcel of land on which its building stands. Due to non-payment of real estate taxes, the City Treasurer of Manila sold the property at a public auction. The GSIS won the bidding held on April 14, 1975.

The NPC failed to redeem the property within one year, and ownership was transferred to the GSIS on May 9, 1976.

(I checked with the Manila Register of Deeds, and indeed the NPC properties are titled to the GSIS. The original lot was registered to the NPC under Transfer Certificate of Title 38690. On June 1, 1994, TCT 38690 was cancelled and in its place TCT 21612 was issued in the name of the GSIS.)

(The GSIS partitioned the property and TCT 21612 was cancelled and replaced with TCT 265235 and TCT 265236. The land covered by TCT 265236 has an area of 2,404 sq m. On this land stands the NPC building. On the other lot stands a building of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.)

Although the GSIS was not being paid for the use of the properties, the GSIS complaint said, it continued to entrust to the NPC the possession and maintenance of both the land and the building "as its way of contributing to the flourishing of a free press."

"Considering the liberality and generosity being extended to them by GSIS, we had thought that respondents would not dare breach the trust and confidence reposed (by the GSIS) in them. However, in malicious and grave breach of confidence, respondents ... caused the removal of a wall of the building with a Vicente Manansala mural painted on it and sold the same without notice to and consent of its owner, the GSIS," the GSIS lamented.

There has been no public comment from the NPC board until now.

* * *

In answer to numerous queries from readers, I am glad to report that their long wait is over. Issue No. 6 of "Tales From the Enchanted Kingdom" is now off the press. You can buy your copies from your favorite bookstore or comic books shop.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: **Politicians are like diapers. They have to be changed regularly. And for the same shitty reasons.**

'Inconvenient Truth' sans an Inconvenient Lifestyle?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

"CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY" includes caring for the environment, the League of Corporate Foundations says, and I couldn't agree more. I admire those CEOs who "walked their talk" around Makati's business district to dramatize their commitment to minimize their carbon footprint. I wonder though if, while sweating through their walk, they felt that Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" can only be overcome by an Inconvenient Lifestyle.

Not necessarily so, as I discovered during a weekend in the mountains of New Hampshire. I enlisted for the Appalachian Mountain Club, and spent a few days snowshoeing through the woods with the family, and trekking part of the Appalachian Trail.

The AMC lodge was designed from ground up to be earth-friendly and energy-efficient. The first thing that struck me was that it wasn't some swank New England version of Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water, exemplar of the famous architect's "organic architecture," wherein the building and its surroundings "become part of a unified, interrelated composition." It was instead a very practical structure that a non-architect like me would describe as a fashionably designed log-cabin.

The lodge was built on the ruins of a grand hotel built in the 1800s as a retreat for the rich and famous. The hotel burned down and, half a century later, the remaining wood and steel beams were recycled to build what now stood as a mountain lodge. The floor was carpeted with recycled fiber. The windows were double-glazed for insulation, strategically placed to maximize exposure to the sun. Artificial lighting came from compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) which, compared to incandescent bulbs, last longer and use less energy. They used no pressed wood (we Filipinos will recognize this in particleboard, plywood paneling and medium-density fiberboard) that, I learned, emit formaldehyde. The dining room vents automatically blew in fresh air the moment they detected elevated levels of carbon dioxide. Leftover food was classified into compost-friendly and -unfriendly bins.

The challenge to Filipinos is to take the earth-friendly practices that have thrived abroad, and adapt them to Manila's hot and humid weather—and our stratified society. Some should easily make common sense for the Pinoy, e.g., the use of CFL lighting, of ventilation-maximizing windows and the hunt for "phantom loads," i.e., appliances that quietly drain energy even when not in use. Others, like composting and segregating garbage, need to be adapted to Filipino realities; the segregation is left to maids, the garbage men mix up the organic with the inorganic, and, I suspect, the trash all end up in the same Smoky Mountain anyway.

For sure, there are limits to what local efforts can achieve. The US Supreme Court, during the oral arguments for its April 2007 decision in Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency, recognized that all the CO_2 reduction painfully achieved locally is easily wiped out by wanton pollution from developing countries. China builds one coal-fired factory each week! But this is no excuse to tarry. Global warming will melt enough shelf ice in the Antarctica to raise sea levels by at least 20 feet, and that will surely submerge the entire former swampland now called Makati City.

The global movement to protect the environment is actually traced to a 1962 book, "Silent Spring," by American marine biologist Rachel Carson. "Silent Spring" focused on the over-use of newly invented pesticides, especially the anti-malaria DDT. Carson spoke of "environmental connectedness": a pesticide aims to poison one insect, but it ends up poisoning larger animals and humans.

Carson was initially vilified as a "hysterical woman," and the chemical companies enlisted the scientists and the federal government to question her work. "If man were to follow the teachings of Miss Carson, we would return to the Dark Ages, and the insects and diseases and vermin would once again inherit the earth." An agriculture department officer even said she was "probably a communist." Carson eventually triumphed with the US ban on DDT, a ban now virtually carried out across the globe by international treaties.

Carson actually had to discontinue her Ph.D. studies for financial reasons, in a story that should be familiar to Filipinos. She cared for an ailing mother, later on for orphaned nieces and a grandnephew. To augment her meager pay, she wrote popular scientific pieces for the magazines, and her early manuscripts were rejected for being "too literary"—until she hit the big time, at which point she placed her renown to promote her cause.

In many Third World countries, environmentalism has become a chic elite preoccupation, fueled by foundation money. After all, it takes the elite to push to clean up the estero, because the squatters who live there see it as home. It has taken the scientists to tell the fishermen about the perils of over-fishing, and now to tell us about global warming. And this time, it has taken the League of Corporate Foundations to bring the debate even closer to home.

But we cannot leave the work to them alone. Popular movements are needed to monitor compliance on the ground, and to adapt global strategies to local conditions.

The future Filipina Rachel Carson is out there, waiting for a chance to write her own Silenced Summer. Just make sure nobody says she's "probably a communist." And next, make sure the corporate philanthropies support her scientific work, before she decides to pack up and migrate.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Don't throw it away

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

SINCE I BECAME INVOLVED IN URBAN POOR issues, I have been going to Recto every May 1 for the rallies. I am not a member of any of the largely militant groups of ralliers that descend upon the area every year. It simply started as a personal attempt to understand better the situation of the urban poor who compose most of the militant groups.

What do they say in their placards? There are the usual shouts against US imperialism, which I am not sure the people who join the rallies really understand. But most placards bear grievances that strike closer to home (which for many of the ralliers is a shack in a slum community) such as corruption, homelessness, extrajudicial killings, unemployment and hunger. The shouts have remained the same through the years indicating that not much has changed.

Indeed, the Philippines is still ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in Asia. As for homelessness, a study conducted by our institute showed that some of the urban poor dwellings (I was tempted to use "house," but that evokes a well-built structure) in Navotas were as small as four square meters, the size of the cars my students drive to school. Surveys done by the Social Weather Stations also show that self-rated hunger has been as bad as ever. Of course, the extrajudicial killings of activists and journalists go on.

Since my first pilgrimage, I have felt an affinity for the ralliers who go to Recto every year even though I would not consider myself a militant in the narrow sense of the word. And so I kept on going not only to understand issues better but also to be inspired. I draw strength from the ralliers who are fighting for the same cause: better life, food on the table, housing, better working conditions, good governance and respect for human rights.

The last two years have been especially inspiring for me because it seems that the militants have been the only ones who have been consistently vocal about their demand that GMA step down. Most of us, on the other hand, have remained quiet, even though surveys have consistently shown widespread discontentment with and mistrust of the present government.

Thus, I have always kept my May 1 free so I could go to Recto. (Last year, I inadvertently set a romantic date on May 1. Not wanting to miss the action in Recto, I invited my date to the rallies. To my surprise, it turned out to be a very fruitful afternoon for both of us and we even had our picture taken with the riot police line as the background. We started calling each other "mahal" shortly after that.)

This year, like last year, the protesters could only congregate near Ever department store in Recto. Mendiola is still off-limits to protesters. I was reminded of our march to Mendiola, together with other law students from Metro Manila, shouting "Protect Our Civil Liberties" to no avail, although we did better than the militants because we got as far as Legarda. (The next day, we were surprised to see our pictures on the front page of the INQUIRER where we were labeled as "well-groomed ralliers." Some of my evening block classmates who didn't go to work and gave alibis to their bosses and employers just to be at the rally were horrified at the thought of being exposed because of the picture!)

The fact that Mendiola has remained closed to protesters tells us something. It indicates that not only is the country under a de facto martial law where rights are not respected and where extrajudicial killings bear the stamp of state-approval (one of the biggest issues against the government that the opposition has failed to capitalize on this election season) but also that the government is not doing its job. After all, a government that is doing its job well should have nothing to hide and should have no reason to be afraid of protesters! But this government is not doing its job, and so it is seriously afraid of the people and doing all it can to silence dissidents.

So there I was last May 1 reading the placards that bear the people's grievances. I no longer had a "mahal" to share the afternoon with, so I could only smile to myself as I read some of the placards bearing the word "*mahal*" but referring to prices. Thus, instead of holding a lover's hand, I found my left hand around a little boy's shoulder to keep him from falling from the elevated sidewalk where we were standing as people pushed and shoved.

Based on his appearance and the sack he was holding, which almost touched the ground because of his short size, I knew immediately what the child was there for: to pick up the mineral water bottles that are usually left after the rallies. So as the speakers took turns denouncing the government and taunting the police to serve the people and not the usurper in Malacañang, I asked the child if he could show me what was inside the sack. He opened it just a little, like someone protective of his treasures, while looking at me suspiciously. I saw several red and green C2 bottles.

As I looked at his young but determined face, I suddenly wished I hadn't thrown away the mineral water bottle from which I had just drunk. I smiled at him and didn't say anything more. What else could one say to him? That I wanted to help him pick up the bottles after the rally? That I wanted to feed him?

As I walked away from the crowd that late afternoon, I promised myself I would not throw my vote away the same way I did the empty bottle of mineral water. I would vote wisely for the boy. With a better government, no child will have to pick up empty mineral bottles anymore.

Mike's concession

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THAT WAS QUITE A MOUTHFUL MIKE DEFENSOR let loose when he conceded defeat in the senatorial race in a press conference the other day. As quoted by the media, Defensor said he was dropping his Senate bid "to enjoin my allies and friends who may want, in their desire to have me win, commit acts inimical to the essence of democracy and fair play in an electoral battle."

Before his concession, Defensor ranked No. 15 in both the Comelec and Namfrel counts, three slots away from the 12th place, but with over a million votes yet to be counted, concededly still within striking distance of the winners' circle.

But what exactly did he mean by "acts inimical to the essence of democracy and fair play?" Does Defensor have personal knowledge of the so-called backroom operations that attend the canvassing of votes? Is he saying his "friends and allies" have something to do with what the opposition suggests have been electoral anomalies attended by acts of violence in Maguindanao and other ARMM provinces?

While he may have desired some peace and quiet and time with his wife and children after the hurly-burly of the campaign and elections, Defensor would have done the country a bigger favor if he courageously detailed what he knows of the ongoing post-election operations. What did Team Unity operatives hope to perform to still catapult Defensor to 12th place? And what sort of "inimical" acts would these be? Buying off canvassers and watchers? Manipulating the tallies, such as shaving off votes of the higher-ranking candidates?

There are those who also suggest that Defensor's early concession may have been a means to forestall any more attempts to "massage" the results, all of which would cost money, on top of the expenses already incurred in the campaign.

* * *

THEN again, maybe Defensor was simply feeling burnt out from a grueling campaign that saw him toppling from being a "sure shot," what with his early high rankings in the surveys and his constant media exposure as the President's personable alter ego as her chief of staff, to a struggling also-ran.

It's difficult to explain Defensor's loss, actually. He is young, and comes across in media appearances as earnest and well-meaning. He is even more charming in person. Indeed, it was difficult to stay angry with—or even just annoyed at—Mike for long. His explanations for the many foibles and failings of the Arroyo administration were always couched in reasonable tones. And while his replies may have strained credulity, the only criticism one could hurl at him was that of loyalty, extreme loyalty, to the President.

One could always speculate on Defensor's reasons for sticking by the President even when certain policies and actions were downright indefensible. Perhaps he thought this was his best guarantee of a political future, and his inclusion in the TU slate would have seemed the ultimate reward for a young, loyal and articulate politico. But he may realize by now, even if he doggedly speaks loyally of the President, that it was this same loyalty, this image of not just a reliable associate but an active conspirator of Malacañang, that may have done him in. Migz Zubiri and Butch Pichay may have been part of the pro-GMA cabal, but neither of them was so closely identified with her as Mike was.

* * *

MY hope for Mike Defensor at this time of his life is that he spends the next year not just driving his young children around but also reflecting on the journey that brought him from being a young politician with a progressive image to a defeated senatorial aspirant at pains to overcome the public's negative perceptions of him.

Defensor first made a name for himself when, as a congressman from Quezon City, he came out with an "exposé" on the corruption attending the hearings on a congressional franchise for a huge construction project. If I remember right, this paper was the first publication to carry the story, but when the House leadership reacted sharply, Defensor denied he was a source.

Perhaps it's an indication of Defensor's political agility that he bounced back from this setback and managed to forge a modus vivendi with the congressional powers. His profile was raised even further when, as one of the "Spice Boys" leading the charge of the political opposition in the House against Erap, he became a media darling with his bold pronouncements and personable demeanor.

Reformists hoping to initiate change from within our political culture even considered him one of the leading lights among the young legislators. But then Edsa Dos came around and suddenly, the tables were turned.

* * *

IT may be simplistic to argue that it was success and power that transformed Mike Defensor and other young politicians from potential change makers to guardians of the status quo.

Perhaps what happened to them was only a function of age and expanding responsibilities. Or it's simply in the nature of politicians, young or old, to put a premium on survival, on gaining and retaining power, even if it means losing sight of why they craved power in the first place.

His early concession of defeat, even as other losing candidates continue to pour resources and stay up, crafting strategies on how to turn loss into victory, says much about the core of decency that remains within Mike Defensor. And I must say, it took a lot of guts not just to bow to the inevitable but also to tell off his "friends and allies."

It's not too late for Mike to learn lessons from this latest stumble, and he is young enough to be able to get up and dust himself off and start anew. And we all know his wife and children will have gained at least a year of his undivided attention and devotion.

Moving

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE OF THE MOST STRESSFUL EXPERIENCES I have had in the past year was moving house. What made it worse was that I was moving into my third home in 13 months.

Moving has two parts. The first hurdle is packing and preparation before flight, but the real challenge is unpacking, which eventually follows in the place of destination.

Since I only lived in my last house for one year, many of my things were still in boxes and were easy to transport. But the rest, including new acquisitions, had to be wrapped and transported, resulting in things being misplaced, broken or given away.

Books were particularly difficult to move. These had to be taken down shelf after shelf, bundled and numbered to make organization of the library in the new home easy. Despite the best plans, certain books that should go together strayed elsewhere.

Bookshelves could not be dismantled and were loaded on to a truck as-is. When these got to the condominium, they wouldn't fit in the service elevator and had to be hand-carried up 18 floors. Now I know what the pyramid builders of Teotihuacán looked and felt like.

Moving into a smaller space meant that many books had to go. First, I separated Filipiniana from non-Filipiniana. This was helpful but not enough. I usually use only two shelves for my work, so I shed books I will not read at any time during the remainder of my life.

First to go were books on literature, mostly novels and poetry (in English, Filipino, Spanish and Kapampangan) I had picked up over the years. However, I kept the Palanca awards anthology for rainy day reading. I also kept literary history, and, of course, all the essay and short story collections. Nick Joaquin/Quijano de Manila filled an entire shelf. To round off the collection, I also kept literary works by National Artists: Franz Arcellana, Edith Tiempo, F. Sionil Jose, Carlos Quirino, Carlos P. Romulo, N.V.M. Gonzalez, Rolando Tinio, Bienvenido Lumbera, etc. I also retained the literary works of writers I have known or met.

Next to go were works on bibliography, law, anthropology, philosophy, theology and local history.

Why did I amass so much? In my youth, I would spend Saturdays browsing in the second-hand bookshops in the University Belt and went home with all sorts of Filipiniana. Space was not a problem at the time and prices were reasonable. I picked up books assuming that I may not read the whole book right away, but like dictionaries these were to be kept for handy reference someday. For many books that day never came.

With Filipiniana, there was no limit, and I ended up with all the standard references, like the 55-volume "Blair and Robertson," other Philippine encyclopedias and even scholarly off-prints on esoteric topics like leg-jiggling (better known as *kuyakoy*) in the Philippines. I collected anything published in the Philippines, and these included carabao milk cartons and cigarette labels; anything by Filipino authors on any topic; and all books on the Philippines even if these were written by foreigners (including editions of "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" in Chinese, Russian, German and Thai). Coffee-table books were particularly attractive though not always useful because many were commemorative books that marked the establishment of banks, hospitals, social clubs and even wedding anniversaries of moneyed but relatively obscure people.

With such a library, I had command of so much information that I could write columns for years without stepping out of my study.

Current limitations of space made me realize I was not a reference library, that I just needed books connected to my teaching, writing and lecturing. This is still a lot, but many books could go somewhere else and be useful to someone else.

Fortunately, the National Library accepted the loan of over 2,000 volumes of my Filipiniana. To help with the non-Filipiniana, I shared the burden by inviting friends over to take what they wanted. As we went through the collection, exchanging book tales and book reviews, my eccentric tastes came out very clearly.

Show me the books you read and I can tell who you are. Jessica Zafra carted away a beautiful edition of facsimiles of Emily Dickinson's letters; books on European history, like an illustrated book on the House of Hapsburg so she could look at their famous chins, and other odds and ends. To control her avarice, Jessica came with one tote bag but ended up with a second grocery bag bursting with books. Unlike others who came to loot for themselves, Jessica also took books for others: some books in foreign languages for Teddyboy Locsin, and a book, titled "Girdle of Chastity," this being a history of the chastity belt, for a mutual friend infamous for editing a book of women's erotica, as well as an issue of the Journal of Ignatian Spirituality.

Tina Cuyugan was surprised that we had almost the same books on our shelves and the same discards. I knew that she would readily accept and give a new home to an exhibition catalogue from the Prado Museum in Madrid on "Monsters, Dwarves, and Jesters in the Court of the Asturias."

This is a very indulgent column, but it reminds me of previous essays I wrote on the reading lists of our heroes. I'm afraid to even imagine what a future historian can conclude from my book list.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Suicide barangay

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IMAGINE A COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE CONSTANTLY talk about suicide, the way to go about it and the victims they had known.

One such community exists—a barangay in Palawan—catching the attention of French anthropologist Charles MacDonald, who eventually discovered that there had indeed been many suicides in the community. He went on to investigate and wrote a book, "Uncultural Behavior," just published by the University of Hawaii Press and available, I am told, at Solidaridad Bookshop on Padre Faura in Manila.

The title is appropriate, given that the Philippines has one of the world's lowest suicide rates. The 2000 Philippine Health Statistics from the Department of Health reports only a few thousand deaths that year from "intentional self-harm." In medical statistical terms, that is something like 1.8 per 100,000 people. Compare that to the highest rates in the world, which are found in Russia and the Eastern European countries, with figures ranging from 30 to 42 per 100,000.

Certainly, the actual rate in the Philippines is probably higher, with many doctors agreeing not to report deaths as suicides because of the stigma. But even if we could get the true figure, it would probably still be relatively low.

Some countries have a more liberal view of suicide, seeing this mainly as an individual decision that has to be respected. There are even organizations now that talk of the "right to die," especially when facing a terminal illness.

In other cultures (Japan being the most well-known example), suicide is seen as an acceptable way of making amends for having brought shame to the family, the community or even the nation. Just this week, the agriculture minister hanged himself following allegations that he had improperly accepted "gifts." Another official followed suit shortly after.

Contrast that behavior with our officials who, even with glaring evidence of major wrongdoing, will insist on their "right" to remain in office.

Suicide profiles

MacDonald uses the term "Kulbi people" to refer to his study community, which is a subgroup of the indigenous Palawano. Based on the Kulbi's recollections, MacDonald was able to find 56 cases of suicide from 1979 to 2000. The figure may seem small but remember this barangay's population is only 1,500.

Using a more careful study of cohorts, MacDonald calculates the suicide rate for the Kulbi to be 136 per 100,000 between 1990 and 2000, and 173 between 1990 and 2001—staggering figures when you look at the highest country suicide rates. MacDonald gives a table of rates reported for small tribal groups, and the Kulbi are second only to the Aguaruna of Peru, where a rate of 180 per 100,000 was reported.

Macdonald also collected information on the reported causes of 87 suicides and grouped them into "melancholy suicides" (common among older people), "gender relations suicides," "passionate and angry suicides," "multiple suicides out of grief" (a chain of suicides or cluster suicides) and "impulsive suicides of teenagers."

MacDonald tests different explanations for suicide by probing deeply into Kulbi society and culture. He leaves no stone unturned, looking into everything, from the natural environment to kinship and politics, from concepts of "personhood, emotions and moral values" to religion.

Each chapter in MacDonald's book suggests "answers" to the suicide riddle, until you get to the next one and realize that the answers seem to create even more riddles. For example, as MacDonald describes the Kulbi's great sense of autonomy, and the lack of hierarchical structures, one is tempted to think that maybe they're similar to many Western societies where individuals are left on their own to decide. Yet, MacDonald links this autonomy to the Kulbi's overwhelming fear of society, an unwillingness to confront critics or judges. A 13-year-old boy, for example, had caught his grandmother's chicken in a snare. His siblings told him his grandmother would hang him for the misdeed. The boy hanged himself.

At the end of his suicide "profiles," MacDonald notes that a common denominator to the suicides is pain or stress, whether, physical, mental or emotional. "The suicide," MacDonald proposes, "wants to stop hurting."

Thankfully, MacDonald doesn't end with that explanation. He rejects biological or genetic explanations, as well as the idea that there may be a whole melancholic cultural personality at work. He looks to other studies conducted among small groups, looking for possible correlations with the predisposition to suicide, from the presence of organized violence to a belief in vengeful souls.

Even without the focus on suicide, MacDonald's description of the community is exhaustive and makes the book a good buy.

In the end, after excluding different theories, he suggests a wave theory, meaning that at some point in the past, some catastrophic event such as an epidemic may have spurred a surge of suicides and that with time, suicide became somewhat acceptable.

It's difficult to prove that wave theory, but it does give food for thought, maybe even a warning. In more urbanized and industrial areas throughout the world, including Metro Manila, we occasionally find cluster suicides—one suicide setting off another. Japan has been facing the problem of group suicides involving younger people who meet and eventually forge a suicide "pact" through the Internet.

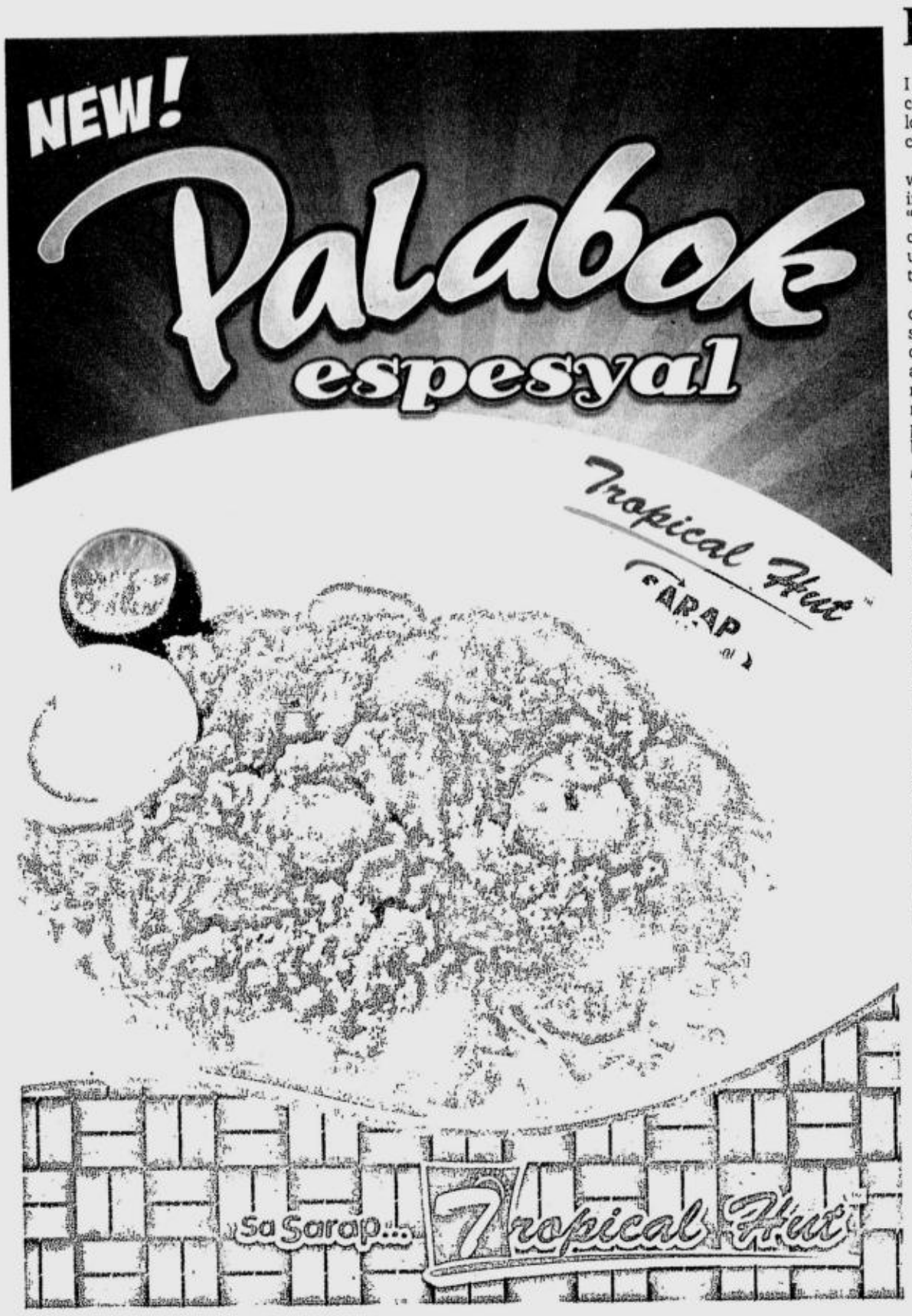
Public health

MacDonald's work is an example of how the social sciences can contribute to public health—in this case, to suicide prevention. So many characteristics of Kulbi society—individualism amid continuing fear of authority—are in fact found throughout the Philippines and may help to explain suicide even among urbanized Filipinos.

MacDonald's study raises questions about the vulnerability of small communities like the Kulbi. Is it possible that they might reach a critical "tipping point" more easily? Or could a small community act faster to prevent suicides from becoming an acceptable norm? Given, too, that we now live in a world where isolation is almost impossible, does the outside world (in the Kulbi case, the Philippine mainstream) have any impact on the Kulbi, reversing or reinforcing the current suicide trend?

Beyond suicide, however, MacDonald's study challenges our ideas about culture. We tend to presume culture is shared and that people happily observe the norms. His study shows that culture is much more complex, that even with a kind of national norm like what we have for suicide, there can be significant exceptions. In the Kulbi case, what passes as deviance from a national norm is in fact the small-group norm.

As MacDonald's book shows, understanding the "uncultural" provides the key to unlocking the many mysteries of "culture."



Forget impeachment bid

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I AM AN AVID READER OF ISAGANI A. CRUZ'S column, Separate Opinion, because I like his logical, intelligent and profound assessments of current issues.

But I was surprised by his May 27 column in which he emphasized the importance of having all 24 Senate seats occupied because it "will need at least two-thirds of its members to convict and remove GMA." Could Cruz's column be a foretelling of the Senate's true objective and No. 1 agenda?

The citizenry's resounding response to the opposition's call for change is seen in the results of this year's senatorial elections, a change that most Filipinos hope will primarily address the plight of the common "tao" and not "to convict and remove GMA." And the newly elected senators owe it to the Filipino people who pinned their hopes on them for a better future. For the "masa," this means: three full meals a day, employment opportunities and education, and these are far more important than ousting a President from office.

In the words of former US President Gerald Ford during his oath-taking ceremony on Aug. 9, 1974: "There is no way we can go forward except together and no way anybody can win except by serving the people's urgent needs. We cannot stand still or slip backwards. We must go forward now, together."

The winners in the last elections should abandon their partisan biases when they take their solemn oath to serve the people.

—EMMA A. REQUILME,
ebi_ear1950@yahoo.com

Time ripe for PLDT boss to seek the presidency

FOR 2010, MANNY PANGILINAN IS THE name of our presidential candidate. The time is ripe for us to start the ball rolling in this direction.

But unless there is a massive, spirited, lively and sustained civic movement to draft PLDT's top honcho, neither heaven nor earth will succeed in persuading Pangilinan to enter the Philippines' political snake pit. Indeed, it would be a heroic sacrifice for Pangilinan to make such a move.

There is an old saying: "War is too important to be left to the generals." The war on corruption and on economic stagnation is too serious and grave even for a brilliant five-star general. The general repair of our damaged culture requires a genius to solve, and a monumental effort to re-enforce forgotten values and decency among our people.

To be realistic and practical in a political endeavor, this civic campaign or movement should go hand in hand with honest and sincere solicitation and contribution of funds. As an enthusiastic, determined and lowly advocate of this important movement, I will try my best to raise P30,000 and deposit the amount in a bank chosen by the movement.

There should be public disclosure of the total amount of funds raised and expenses should be limited as required by law. The excess funds, if any, from such a most rewarding electoral campaign should be donated to the Gawad Kalinga and other noteworthy institutions.

Perhaps, by that time "our minds will be eased from the weariness of toil by the thought that our goal is our people's happiness," to quote the late President Manuel Roxas.

The element of time is precious. Before we realize it, 2010 will just be around the corner. Let's act before it's too late. Let us pray for God's bountiful blessings!

—NAPOLEON "BILLY" VELOSO ABUEVA,
national artist, 1 Gabriela Silang St.,
Tierra Verde, Culiat, Quezon City

An empty victory for Honasan and Trillanes

THE VOTE FOR GREGORIO HONASAN AND Antonio Trillanes is still a victory for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. We have forgotten that Rep. Crispin Beltran is languishing in jail on charges of sedition and rebellion filed against him by no other than "The King of Clowns" masquerading as justice secretary.

Ms Arroyo will command the clown to file more charges against Honasan and Trillanes, and these two "winners" will never get to occupy their seat in the Senate. Like Beltran, the two will be imprisoned indefinitely.

The Honasan-Trillanes vote was a resounding protest vote, but it was an exercise in futility. Likewise, the victory of Mayor Jejomar Binay in Makati and that of Gov. Neil Tupas in Iloilo could prove hollow. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez can easily manufacture more charges against them so they can be suspended by the "Supreme" Court.

Do we honestly think that Arroyo and Associates—her family and Cabinet lapdogs and the Armed Forces of the Philippines—will allow the Filipino people to bring in elected officials who can bring down the status quo? The last elections only affirmed that "Happy Days are Here Again" until 2010 when her term expires. By that time, she will be rich beyond her wildest imagination, living in the land of the free and the home of the brave, protected by the Grand Old Party.

—ALFONSO A.C. DEMAYO,
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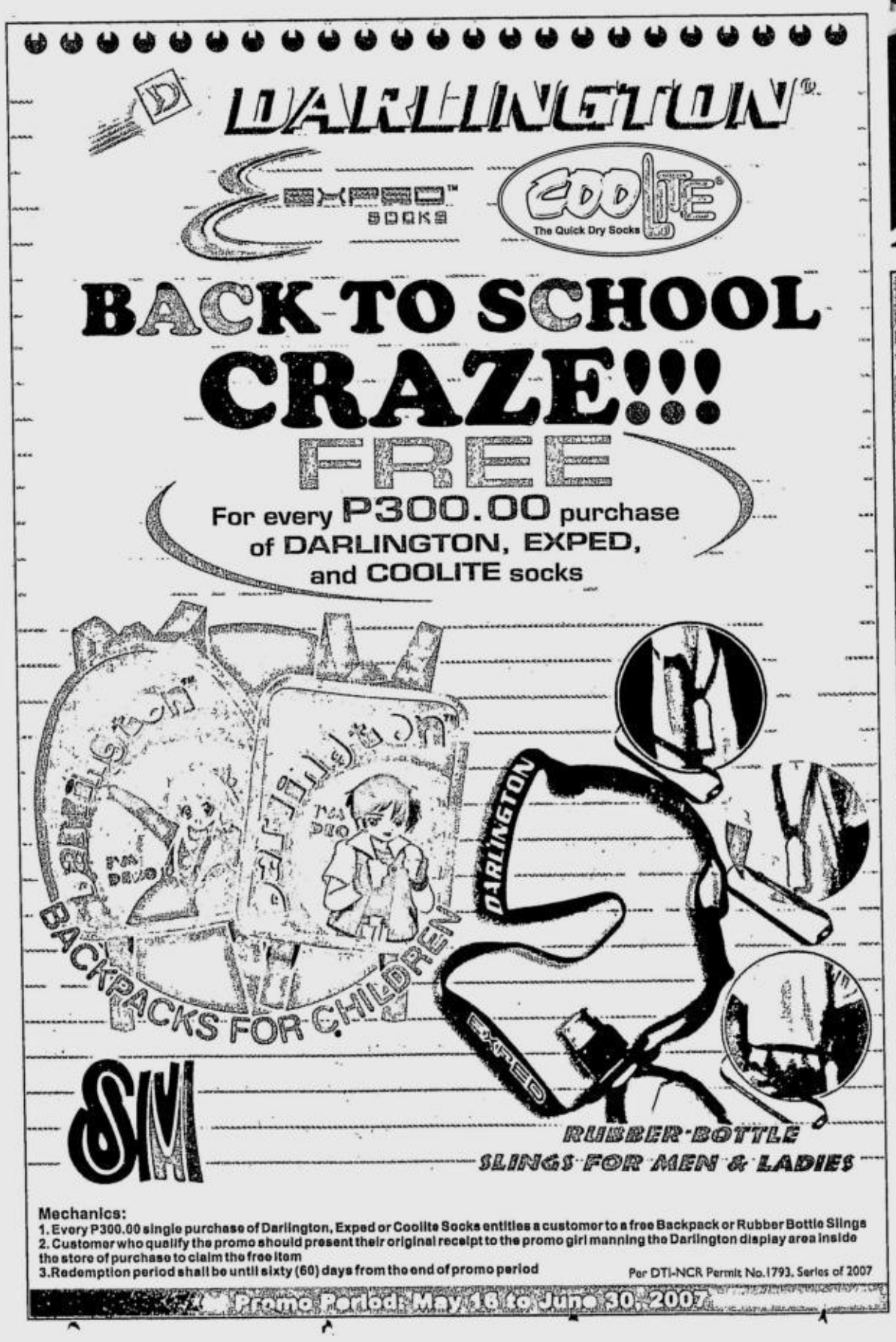

What growth means to ordinary folk

From page A1

and planning at Neda, said the goal of economic growth was to generate employment to fight poverty.

The size of the economy is commonly measured by its gross domestic product—the sum of goods and services produced in a given period.

An increase in production by businesses means higher income for investors, and higher income and more employment opportunities for the people in general, according to Arroyo.

An increase in economic growth attracts more investors to come into the country.

This results in more employment opportunities, more people having stable incomes and, ideally, reduced poverty.

The government's economic managers said the GDP growth in the first quarter was influenced by improved macroeconomic fundamentals, including the strengthening of the peso, lower interest rates and a lower budget deficit.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri said lower interest rates on bank loans would encourage businesses to borrow and use the money to pursue expansion plans. More business activities result in more jobs.

The lower interest rates are attributed to the government's improved budget condition, characterized by a lower budget deficit.

A lower budget deficit improves the government's credit image, making lenders seek lower interest rates on their loans to the government.

Low interest rates on government's borrowings lead to low interest rates on bank loans, which may entice investors to borrow and expand their businesses.

The strengthening of the peso also helps boost economic growth. Arroyo said a strong peso would make imported goods cheaper and encourage households to increase spending.

Higher spending by households means higher demand for goods and services provided by businesses.

And higher demand requires higher production, which in return create more jobs.

A strong peso is helpful, especially because the Philippines imports most of its oil requirements.

It eases the price of oil and allows higher spending for other products or services, Arroyo said.

Economy expands 6.9%

From page A1

booming business process outsourcing (BPO) industry, mostly made up of call centers.

Bill Belchere, an economist at Macquarie Bank, described the GDP growth in the first quarter as a "stunner."

Investors cheer

Stock market investors cheered the GDP growth, which beat market projections of 5.7-5.8 percent.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index jumped 76.12 points or 2.23 percent to 3,474.67, its second highest level in history, from the historical high of 3,505 on May 22.

"The news of a better-than-expected growth triggered the run-up. This is the vitamins that the bulls are waiting for. The sustained growth is a good sign for the capital-raising of listed companies," Astro del Castillo, general manager of First Grade Holdings Inc., said.

Government officials said the 2007 target of 6.1-6.7 percent growth was well within reach and could be revised upward, with the country now closer to hitting a hitherto elusive 7-percent growth.

Economists say the Philippines needs to grow 7-8 percent annually to cut poverty substantially.

Joey Salceda, a former presidential chief of staff, said the GDP growth vindicated the planned "7-8-9 percent" growth target he propounded three months ago. The target is envisioned to place the country at a higher growth plane and avoid the boom-and-bust cycles that have wiped out gains achieved by economic reforms.

"Underlying trends show there is sufficient momentum for growth acceleration, swinging around the 7-percent GDP average for the rest of the year," said Salceda, Albay's governor-elect.

Salceda said strong revenue collections and proceeds from the government's privatization program should ensure sufficient funding for the administration's massive infrastructure program, which is expected to be the main growth driver in the next three years.

Low interest rates

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the drop in interest rates encouraged borrowings that were used to finance investment activities, while the slowdown in inflation supported consumption by households.

Finance officials said the drop in interest rates was largely due to the rise in the collection of revenues that resulted in a lower budget deficit.

The decline in the budget deficit, in turn, improved the country's credit image, causing lenders to seek lower interest rates on the government's borrowings. The interest rates, done through the issuance of bonds, are used as benchmarks for setting the interest rate on bank loans.

The Arroyo administration also took pride in the strengthening of the peso, which, it said, helped temper inflation.

A strong peso makes imported goods cheaper, encouraging spending. Higher spending means higher demand for goods and services, which leads to growth in production.

Competitive footing

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the GDP growth in the first quarter placed the country on competitive footing with neighboring countries.

He noted that while the 6.9-percent GDP growth was still lower than China's 11.1 percent and Vietnam's 7.7 percent, it was higher than growth rates in many other countries.

Arroyo noted that Singapore grew by 6 percent, Indonesia also by 6 percent, Hong Kong by 5.6 percent, Malaysia by 5.3 percent, Taiwan by 4.1 percent and South Korea by 4 percent.

Neri said investments must grow some more so they can generate jobs that can help reduce poverty levels.

"The macroeconomic reforms (referring to improving tax collection and increasing government spending on social services) currently implemented must now be complemented with microeconomic reforms to improve industry competitiveness," Neri said.

The country's chief economist said microeconomic reforms like making credit more accessible to small entrepreneurs and reducing the cost of doing business should be done.

Microeconomic reforms are measures that will directly address the problems of businesses. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

North, South Cotabato poll supervisors relieved

From page A1

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. also placed on a watch list the two provincial election supervisors, who failed to appear before the NBC when they were summoned on Wednesday.

Lintang Bedol, chair of the board of canvassers for Maguindanao, was also put on the watch list after his no-show at Wednesday's session.

The Comelec ordered Bedol yesterday to explain why he should not be cited for contempt for not appearing the other day despite having been notified in open session last Friday.

The NBC called for Bedol last week to establish the authenticity of the Maguindanao CoCs, believed to be listing ballots that teachers were allegedly forced to fill out with the names of TU candidates.

Jose Pio Joson, a Comelec executive director, said provincial election supervisors like Radam, Martirizar and Bedol, as well as election officers in areas where there were discrepancies in the Comelec accountable forms, should be thoroughly investigated to "determine conclusively the truth."

"As of now, it's purely speculation (that they were involved in electoral fraud). We have to know the extent of their participation or if they had knowledge of it," he said.

Under duress

In his years in the Comelec, Joson said he learned that there were "many circumstances" leading to an election officer being involved in alleged fraud.

"Sometimes, they are under duress to commit these acts. For example, what could you do when there is a gun pointed to your head?" Joson said.

He said that up until yesterday, the Comelec could not reach Bedol, Radam and Martirizar.

The three officials could be cited for contempt or placed under arrest if they continued to defy the Comelec summons, he said.

GO election lawyers were also putting up a hardline stance against the erring Comelec officers.

Electoral sabotage

The lawyers have threatened to cite Radam and Martirizar for contempt and file electoral sabotage charges against them should they fail to show up again today to explain major discrepancies in the provincial certificates of canvass and the municipal CoCs.

"We are giving them a last chance to explain otherwise we will file appropriate cases and urge the board to issue warrants of arrest against them," lawyer Leila de Lima said in open session yesterday.

The warning came after the NBC finally read out yesterday afternoon vote tallies from South Cotabato, which were retabulated by a new set of board of canvassers created by the Comelec the other day.

The NBC also created a new set of canvassers to retabulate tallies for North Cotabato after it noted discrepancies in its CoC, which Martirizar submitted to the Comelec last week.

Recipient of largest padded votes

The CoC submitted by the new board confirmed the padding of at least 5,000 to 119,000 votes in the old South Cotabato vote tally for eight TU candidates, one GO candidate and an independent.

The smallest of the padded votes went to Francis Pangilinan with 5,704 votes while the largest, 119,100 votes, went to the TU's Prospero Pichay.

The recipient of the second biggest padded votes (119,000) was Michael Defensor, who has already accepted defeat to ease the tension and prevent possible "inimical acts" to get him into the Magic 12.

The corrected CoC also proved discrepancies in the votes earned by TU candidates Edgardo Angara (101,000 votes); Joker Arroyo (110,001 votes); Vicente Magsaysay (88,000); Tessie Oreta (116,908); Ralph Recto (116,030) and Miguel Zubiri (77,000).

Loren Legarda (GO) had 43,000 padded votes when the new CoC was compared with that prepared by Radam.

Mobile canvasser

De Lima questioned the Comelec for appointing Radam as provincial election supervisor despite her reputation as the "mobile board of canvassers" during the 2004 elections.

"She used to be in several areas at the same time issuing CoCs left and right," De Lima said.

Abalos, at a press briefing, was surprised by De Lima's statements, saying that he was quite impressed with Radam's work in the previous elections in Sultan Kudarat.

"I don't know what specific cases she was referring to but I remember there was this gunfight [in Sultan Kudarat], three were killed and it was she who braved it out to canvass the results there," Abalos said.

Poll watchdogs monitoring the special elections in Lanao del Sur were handed "unreadable" election returns by local poll officers, making it difficult for them to confirm whether the votes were tabulated correctly in the ongoing canvass.

Lawyer Carlos Medina said the ERs given to volunteers of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections were "99-percent unreadable" and lacked the signatures and thumb marks of the members of the board of election inspectors who supposedly accomplished them. *With a report from Cathy Yamsuan*

Baguio school offers 'pay-per-view' ...

From page A1

For example, 97 of the students have decided they could earn school credits as couch potatoes by enrolling in "pay-per-view" courses that are being tested by a training school here.

The Medical Transcription Academy of the Center for Technical Excellence Integrated School Inc. (CTEISI) plans to use cable television to introduce courses to students, who may be interested in landing jobs in the business outsourcing industry.

About a hundred more students have elected to try out online courses. A local university has offered its students the same option.

Right direction

The recent wave of "alternative" schools has yet to make a dent in the school market, "but it is a step in the right direction," said Elmer Soriano, president of ThinkLab Solutions Inc.

ThinkLab is part of a local campaign seeking changes in the way mainstream education operates.

Instead of the classroom, ThinkLab is offering DVD technology, blogs or online teachers to students.

Maria Bryce Fabro, CTEISI president, said the business sector's interest was behind the growth of alternative universities.

She said many businesses were seeking to bridge the gap between education and the labor market.

The Department of Labor and Employment continues to struggle with a perceived "mismatch" between university graduates and jobs available.

The labor department had projected that the Top 3 job generating sectors in 2006 were agribusiness, estimated at 329,609 jobs, followed by cyber services, 148,350; and hotels and restaurants, 56,001.

Yet, businesses requiring "customer contact agents, software programmers, trained nurses, food and beverage attendants, aquaculturists, cooks, finance accounting transaction personnel, skilled mine workers, entry level animators, aircraft mechanics, and front office agents or attendants" have not been able to get them.

Mismatch

The Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) has been charting the rate of this "mismatch" since 2000, and has discovered that most university students take courses that offer them overseas job opportunities instead of actual careers.

"This generation already understands that they need to invest in a course that would provide them secure jobs, but mainstream universities have not been able to adjust to this demand. It's the way their bureaucracy is structured," Fabro said, adding:

"The universities are still confined to classrooms, partly because government regulators demand that they follow this set up."

Alternative universities have no such restriction, she said, adding that the schools rarely require a college degree when a client undergoes specialized courses like medical transcription.

The CTEISI has job opportunities for high school graduates who took the medical transcription course, according to Fabro.

Online or "pay-per-view" courses also offer students the time to learn "according to their own pace," unlike classroom sessions, she said.

Home schooling

The "pay-per-view" college, for example, "is literally home schooling" that has three rotating lesson sequences each day.

This process allows a client to view the same lesson later in the day should he fail to absorb the information the first time he viewed it, Fabro said.

The cable-channel school will cost a student P3,000 for a three-month package.

"I decided to use cable television instead of the Internet because only one out of every 10 households in the city has a computer. But almost every household has television and cable services," Fabro said.

She said pay-per-view television would also allow family members to have access to the lessons, so learning becomes a family affair.

Fabro noted that the government's experiments with education channels on public television had largely failed.

She said the CTEISI would monitor how students respond to its cable-fed lessons.

Internet as education medium

Many universities and government agencies have accepted the Internet as a viable educational medium but they have not yet maximized the technology's potential, according to Soriano.

He said ThinkLab was offering teachers and students "hyper classrooms" or those that operate online.

"Right now, the Internet only affords clients access to a program but they are still required [by some organizations or schools] to buy books or other multimedia products to guide them through a course," he said.

"A classroom where students and teachers interact online is the ultimate goal of e-learning projects and this is not at all impossible," he said.

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Abra mayor wanted in lawyer's slay

BAGUIO CITY—A judge here on Thursday sentenced a man to 16 to 20 years in prison for the 2005 murder of a public lawyer.

Judge Fernando Vil Pamintuan of the regional trial court here meted out the punishment to Benedict Fassong, 28, three days after he issued an arrest warrant against the accused's alleged clients, a reelected Abra town mayor and his father.

Fassong admitted shooting lawyer Eugenia Campol of the Baguio Public Attorney's Office four times in front of her house at a subdivision here in September 2005.

He claimed that he was contracted to kill Campol by reelected Boliney Mayor Ronald Balao-as and his father, former Mayor Benido Balao-as. The contract involved a P70,000 payoff.

Fassong also claimed that the Abra official supplied him with the murder weapon.

Pamintuan ordered the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to continue detaining Fassong in the city jail while the convict undergoes trial for a separate murder case that the judge is also handling.

Fassong's lawyer, Pablo Wantingan, said his client has not indicated whether he would stand as state witness against Balao-as and his father.

Campol had defended her husband, Julius, in several cases involving Balao-as when she served in Abra. Julius is also an employee of the PAO there.

Campol was reassigned to the Baguio office's family court division when she began receiving threats in Abra.

Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha, Abra police director, said the Boliney police tried to serve the arrest warrant on Balao-as on Monday but were told that the mayor had already abandoned his house. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

THE HUSBAND of the slain lawyer won't answer questions from reporters after the conviction of the gunman in the murder.

CONVICTED gunman Benedict Fassong bows his head after his conviction was read out to him in a Baguio City court room.

PHOTOS BY VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Gunmen release 4, including German, after brief captivity

GUNMEN FREED FOUR PEOPLE, including a German and his Filipino wife, hours after they were seized in Pikit, North Cotabato, on Thursday, the military said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front negotiated their release with the abductors, who were identified as cattle rustlers, said Maj. Gen. Ben Mohammad Dolorfino.

Dolorfino, head of a government-rebel joint action group, said soldiers and MILF guerrillas cordoned off the area where the gunmen held the four, paving the way for the negotiations.

The foreigner was identified as Thomas Wallraf of Cologne, Germany, and his wife as Sharon Jackson. The two others were their Filipino driver and another Filipino woman, both of whom were not identified.

Jackson said they were moved from "house to house" in a village before they were freed. The gunmen took their cell phones, bags and passports, but did not harm them, she said.

Farmers in the village told reporters the gunmen were closely followed by government troops and MILF members.

The hostages and their captors were surrounded not far from where the abduction took place, said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

The four were traveling in a van to Cotabato City when they were stopped by armed men near the town of Pikit.

Maj. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, regional military chief, said military and police reports on the ground quoted witnesses as saying the four were bound and taken away on the back of motorbikes.

Kabalu said the group took the hostages to known MILF territory, prompting the local MILF chieftain, Commander Moti, to order his men to intercept them.

Kabalu did not say who the kidnappers were, describing them only as "armed men" who apparently wanted to hold the four for ransom.

The local brigade commander, Col. Pedro Soria, said he was informed that the four were in MILF hands and that members of a joint ceasefire committee were on their way to pick them up.

Islamic militants from the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Abu Sayyaf groups are known to operate in the heavily populated area in Central Mindanao.

Both groups are on the US government's list of foreign terrorist organizations and are blamed for some of Southeast Asia's worst bombing attacks in recent years.

The latest kidnapping comes just weeks after suspected JI and Abu Sayyaf militants bombed a public market and a bus terminal in central Mindanao, killing 11 and wounding dozens. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao, with reports from AP, AFP*

2,000 American, RP troops start new war games

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AMERICAN AND FILipino sailors yesterday started another antiterror training, this time under the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat) 2007.

"Take care of each other and make safety your number one priority," US Navy Rear Admiral William Burke, commander of Task Force 73 of the Western Pacific Logistics Group, said before some 2,000 US and Filipino sailors here during the opening ceremonies, which was also attended by US Ambassador Kristie Kenney.

The week-long exercise will be participated in by three US naval warships—USS Harpers Ferry, USS Ford and USS Jarrett.

The Philippine Navy will use the BRP Artemio Ricarte, BRP Gen. Mariano Alvarez, BRP Bagobo and BRP Quezon during the exercises, in addition to three Navy Islanders and helicopters.

Burke said that during the exercises, which will be held in the waters of Basilan, Zamboanga and Sulu, US and Filipino sailors will learn "higher level" of combating terror.

"Each of our Navy sailors and marines will share practical skills in several tactical areas like maritime interdiction and surveillance, port and sea search and seizure operation, tactical information sharing, amphibious operation and forced protection," Burke said.

Commodore Feliciano Angue, of the Philippine Navy, said what Burke meant about higher level was that the exercises will focus on night operations.

"It's more challenging now," he said adding that previous exercises focused on day operations.

Burke said aside from terrorism, the joint exercises were also aimed at strengthening the skills of US and Filipino forces against transnational threats like piracy, human and drug trafficking and smuggling. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cops raid Bulacan site, seize shabu ingredients

BALIUAG, BULACAN—CHEMIcals and raw materials for shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) production were seized in a raid on a warehouse in Barangay San Jose here on Thursday, police said.

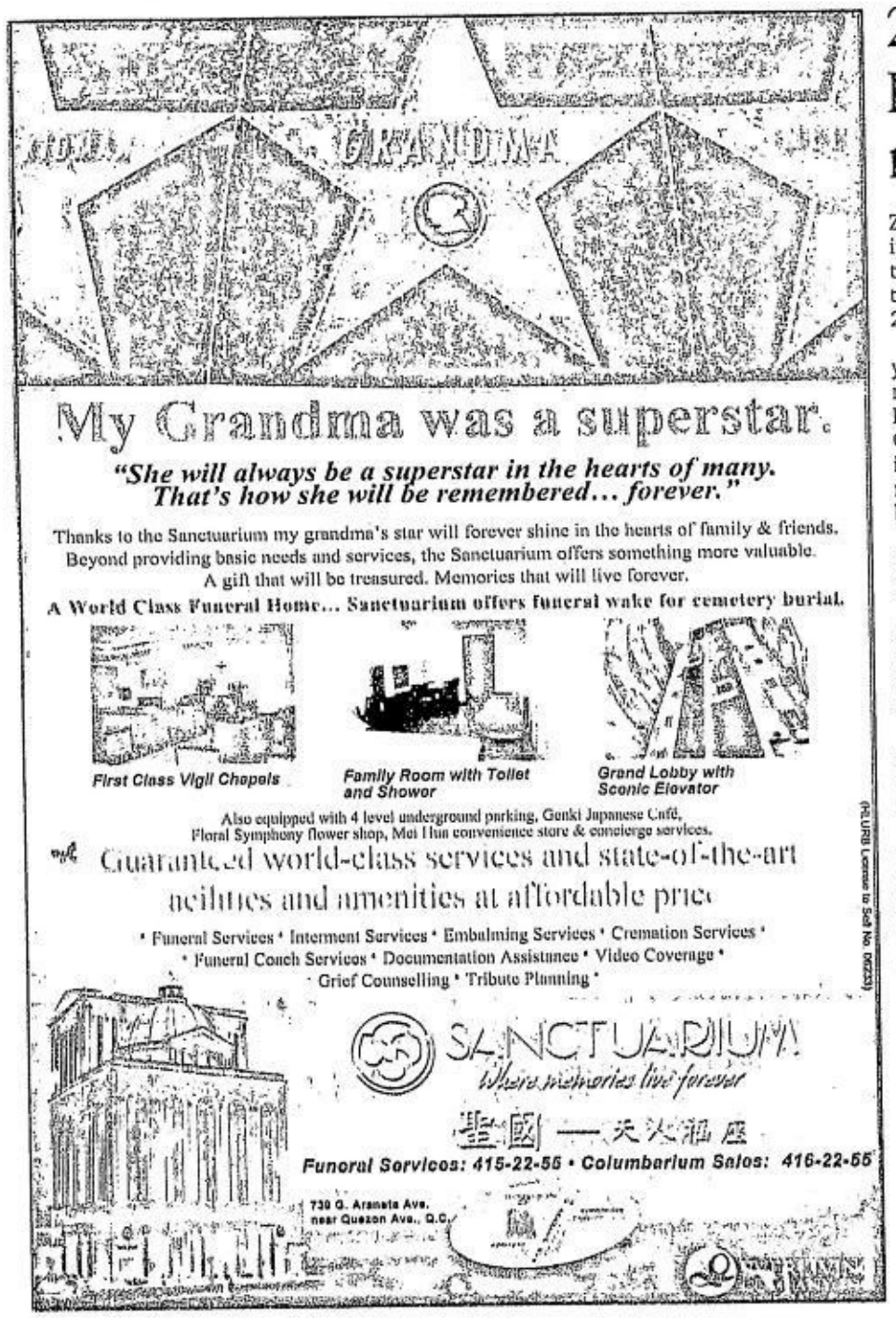
Armed with a search warrant, a team from the Bulacan police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Group raided the warehouse being rented by one Allan Ong and Tan Iloc Gan, suspected members of the Chinese Triad, said Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, Bulacan police director.

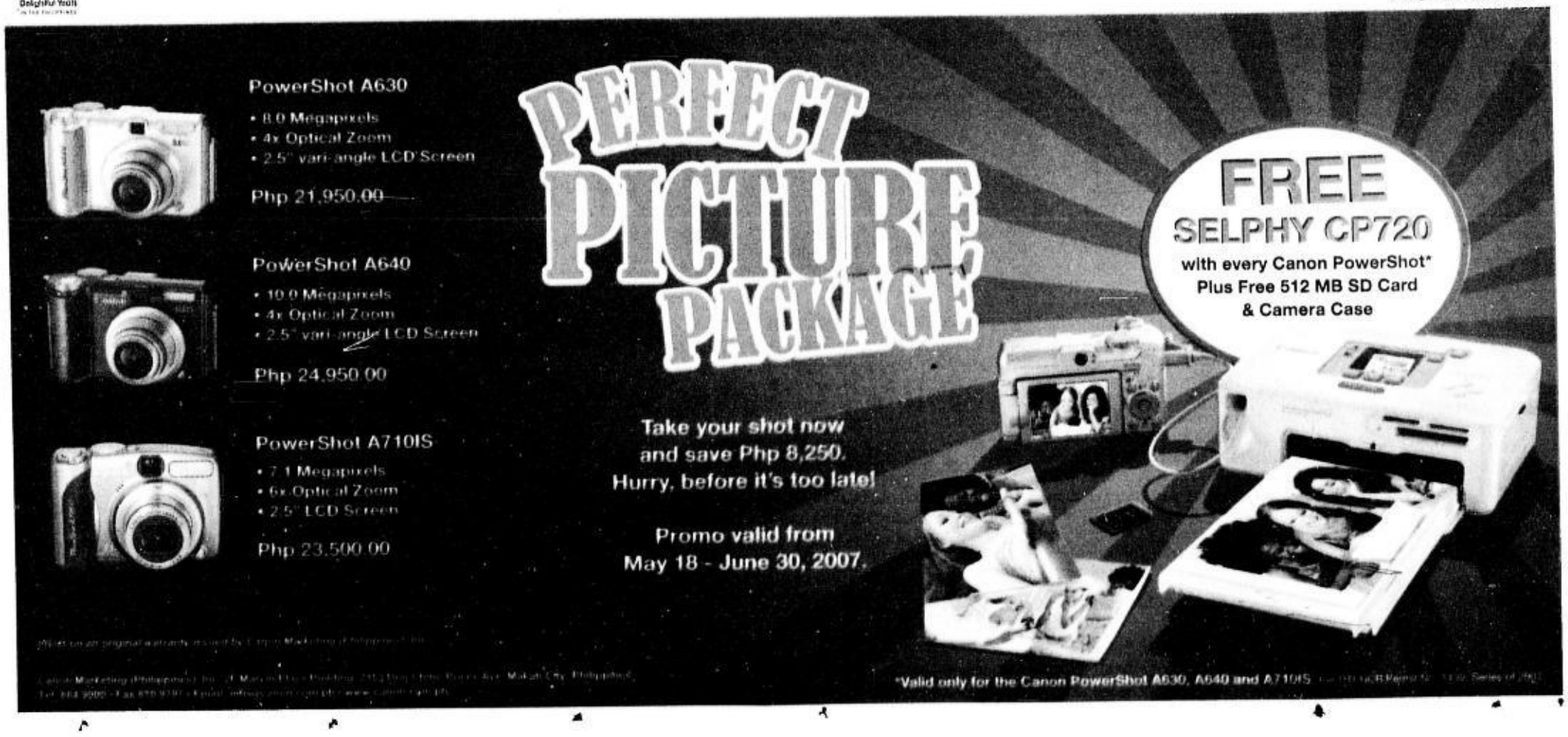
The team confiscated 290 boxes of raw materials and chemicals enough to produce at least 500 kilograms of shabu with a street value of P1 billion, Dolina said. The chemicals were taken to the PDEA laboratory for testing. Dolina said Ong and Gan eluded arrest.

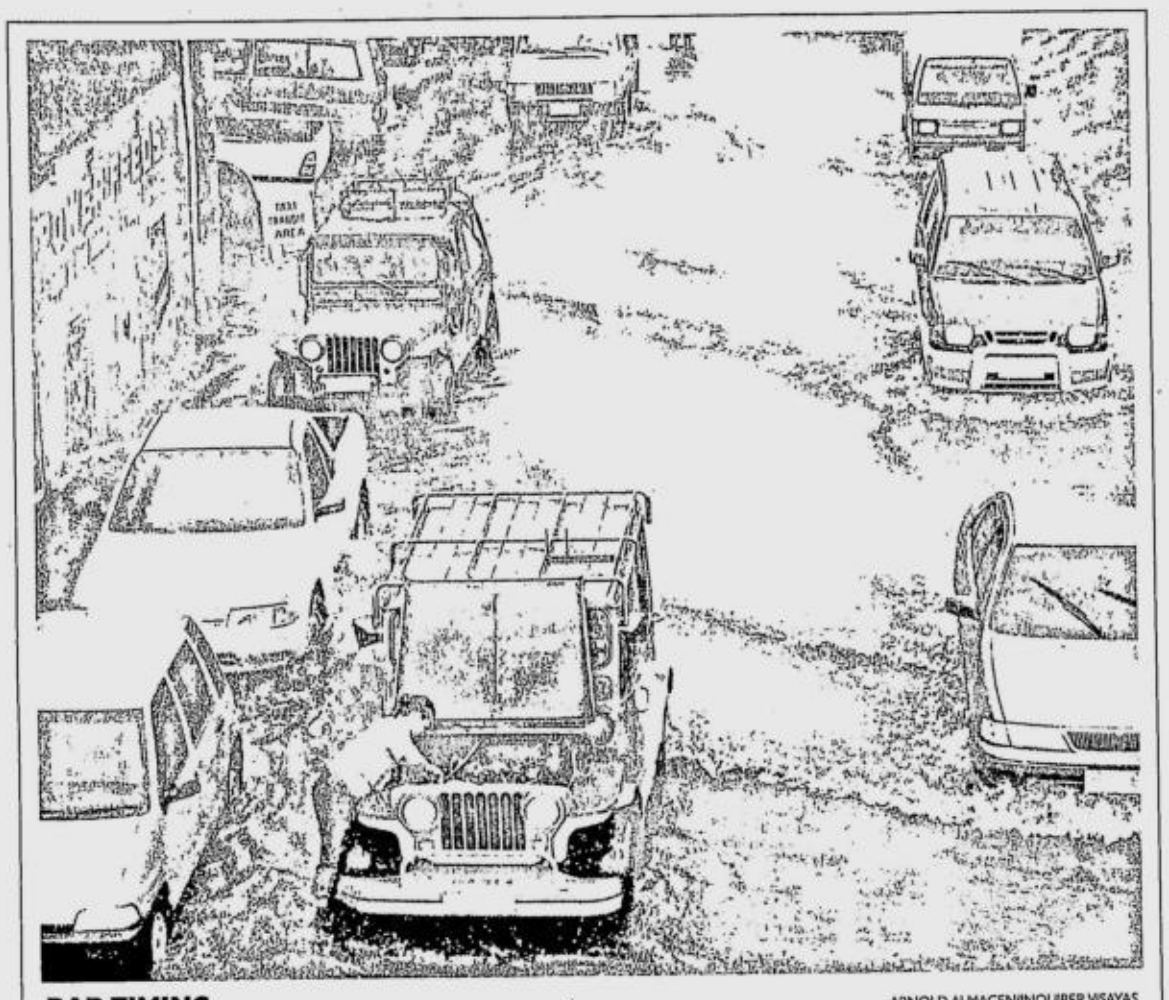
The rented house, which turned out to be a huge warehouse, was the third shabu storage and laboratory found by the police and the PDEA in Bulacan in six months.

Police said the laboratory was believed to be operated by Chinese and Taiwanese involved in large scale illegal drug trade.

In December last year, agents from the PDEA and Bulacan police raided a shabu warehouse and laboratory in Calumpit town, 20 km northwest of Baliuag. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*







BAD TIMING ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

A motorist finds himself the object of scorn and ridicule on a busy downtown street in Iloilo City that suddenly became under water following heavy rains. Clogged drainage was tagged as the cause of the floods, which are common occurrences in the city during the rainy season.

Teachers say no poll failure in Biñan town

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—TEACHERS WHO SERVED AS election inspectors here opposed the possibility of elections in the town being declared a failure.

At least 15 teachers, with representatives of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), called on media Thursday to clarify what really transpired before and during the elections as they were put in a bad light.

Mirasol Isabelo, principal of Biñan Elementary School, said that there was no failure of elections and that they performed their job well.

On May 18, the Commission on Elections issued an order suspending the canvassing of votes in the town after a petition was filed by mayoral candidate Jose Ruben Yatco allegedly because of irregularities.

Yatco is son-in-law of Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos.

Yatco's lawyers said they have evidence to show that massive cheating by the teachers and members of the BEI took place.

Partial count of the PPCRV before the canvassing was suspended by the Comelec showed incumbent Vice Mayor Marlyn Alonte with 29,781 votes against the 23,404 votes of Yatco.

Alonte questioned the suspension of the canvassing saying it was a manifestation of Yatco's connection to Abalos.

With her lawyers, she filed a petition with the Comelec to lift the suspension order.

The Comelec, however, has yet to issue another decision on the elections here after suspending the canvassing.

"We are so tired. We are not yet paid and we are emotionally disturbed by the accusations," she said.

The teachers all said that they have yet to receive their payment for election duties.

"Pay us first before giving us another job for a new election. The start of classes is near," an angry teacher said. She said they spent their own money for transportation.

The teachers said they felt bad against the flyers and forwarded text messages which said they were cheaters.

"What would the students think about us, their teachers? That we were not credible?" a teacher said in Filipino.

The teachers said they were not to blame if the elections in some precincts started late.

Isabelo said that they were confused a day before the voting because the Comelec came up with its own listing of BEI members, which was different from the previous list of the teachers.

"We were so confused. Some of the names in the Comelec list were either on leave or unqualified to join the BEI," she said.

She said many of the teachers had to fall in line at the Comelec at dusk before the voting to have an appointment from the Comelec.

The Comelec was also late in releasing the election paraphernalia.

"It was not true that we hoarded the election paraphernalia on election day. It was the Comelec who caused the delay," she said.

Isabelo was answering the allegations of Yatco that the municipal treasurer had kept the election materials and caused the late opening of precincts.

Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon

ROUNDUP

3 guerrillas killed in clash

LEGAZPI CITY—Three New People's Army members were killed while a member of the 5th Police Regional Mobile Group was wounded during an encounter in Panganiban, Catanduanes on Wednesday, police said Thursday morning. Reports reaching Camp Simeon Ola here identified the wounded policeman as PO1 Dexter Bernales. Police, however, have yet to identify the dead rebels. The 5th PRMG recovered high-powered assault firearms and ammunition, two M16 rifles, and communist documents during the encounter that lasted for an hour.

Police said the NPA rebels were led by a certain "Ka Ding" of the Nerissa San Juan Command. The encounter happened while two units of the Albay Company of the 5th PRMG were patrolling Barangay Cagdarao for the presence of rebels.

In a mobile phone interview, Greg Bañares, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Bicol, said the NPA might have been outnumbered by the police during the encounter.

He added the guerrillas were still trying to identify their slain comrades. Those killed were brought to the Panganiban police station while Catanduanes police operatives were pursuing the remaining rebels. ***Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Garcia; 62

DAVAO CITY—Lolita Garcia, secretary of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, died of a heart attack at the Davao Doctor's Hospital here on Tuesday morning. She was 62. Garcia started to work with the government in 1971. She is survived by husband, former Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) chief Bonifacio Garcia and children Chris Omar and Grace; Benhur and Edna, Julius and Michelle and Dr. Liza Rowena. Her body lies at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Mayon Street here. Burial will be on Saturday morning at the Davao Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Church of the Risen Savior in Mintal District. ***Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao***

Boys wounded by pillbox

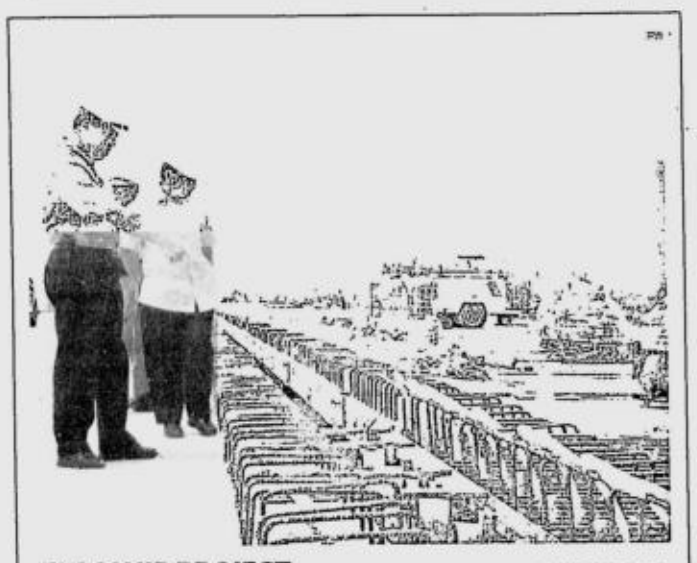
SANTIAGO CITY—Four boys, aged 10 to 12, were hurt on Wednesday when a pillbox they found in Barangay Sinsayon here exploded. Supt. Rolen Barlis, city police chief, said the victims—Reden Agana, 12; Nick Agana, 10; Alexander Tugade, 11; and Melven Ferrer, 11—suffered from shrapnel wounds when the pillbox exploded after they tried to play with it. SPO2 Charlie Viernes, chief investigator of the city police, said the boys found the pillbox about 500 meters from a police checkpoint in the village at 10:30 a.m. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Bet's house fired at

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The house of a losing vice mayoral candidate in Gattaran, Cagayan, was fired at last week but no one was reported hurt in the attack. Police said Cayetano Agulay accused his rival, Matthew Nolasco, who won the race, of staging the attack on the nights of May 25 and 26. Agulay said Nolasco and his men were accusing him of peddling lies against Nolasco and his father, reelected Mayor Ramon Nolasco. But Matthew Nolasco denied Agulay's claims. He said Agulay was resentful due to his defeat in the mayoral race in 2004 and the vice mayoral race this year. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Save Liguasan Marsh project

COTABATO CITY—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has teamed up with the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program (Amore) for the preservation of the Liguasan Marsh. The marsh, which straddles the provinces of Maguindanao in the ARMM, and Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato in Central Mindanao, is a major source of fish and irrigation water. It is a wetland about 40 km long and 30 km wide and is also host to other animal and bird species. ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan said the marsh is the focus of the Earth Day celebration in the region and Amore, which is a project of the government, Mirant Philippines and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He said one of their thrusts is to maintain the marsh's cleanliness. The growing population in areas near the marsh has been threatening its diversity, according to experts. ***Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao***



FLAGSHIP PROJECT PHOTO FROM BCDA

Retired general Narciso Abaya, Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) president and CEO, inspects the 1.16 km long Sacobia-Bamban River Bridge, the longest span in the flagship project Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

Fear disrupts lives of Pampanga village chiefs after polls

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE fear of reprisals is real among a number of barangay captains in Pampanga in post-election weeks and it heightened following the murder of a village chief in Guagua town on May 28, two village officials said on Thursday.

"At first we were just wary of the outcome of the elections. Then there were talks in the villages that barangay leaders would be killed. After that, text messages had spread about the deaths of barangay leaders in [Guagua, Floridablanca, Arayat and Sta. Rita.] These turned out to be false. Since last week, however, men on motorcycles or cars had parked in front of our houses," one of the officials in Bacolor town told the INQUIRER.

"*Pane da keng sasalidan* (The suspicious-looking men always passed around)," he added.

> 'We are the frontline leaders of government but we get little protection...'

License plate

In his case, it was a maroon car with plate number TCK 151. A check with the Land Transportation Office showed this did not exist in the files, he said. This village leader has gone into hiding, slipping only once in a while in his barangay to check on his family.

A municipal councilor, he said, received a threatening text message from an unregistered sender an hour after two men shot dead Mario "Jomar" Nulud, the barangay captain of San Juan Bautista in Guagua.

Nulud openly campaigned for Fr. Eddie Panlilio, who defeated incumbent Gov. Mark Lapid and Board Member Lilia Pineda in the gubernatorial race.

The other official said he could not determine who their real enemies were.

For one, he said Pineda had won in Bacolor. For another, village chiefs received only P5,000 twice from her campaign coordinators to cover expenses for transportation.

Nulud's murder, they said, confused them. "If earlier talks said the killers were targeting barangay captains who received big money but failed to deliver the votes, why was Jomar killed? Was it because he left Nanay Lilia (Pineda) and the [Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino], joined Panlilio or for other reasons?" they asked.

Both village leaders said the fear was heavier in the cases of some colleagues in other towns where candidates had handed "big amounts of money" for vote-buying.

Sitting ducks

They declined to give details, saying they were planning to hold a dialogue on their predicament and possibly hold a rally to seek protection for their likes.

"We are the frontline leaders of government but we get little protection from the police," one said.

Bacolor Mayor Romeo Dungca did not answer the INQUIRER's calls and text messages to confirm the situation of his barangay leaders.

Their accounts added up to the reports by an official of the communist army Rebolusyonaryong Hubkong Bayan that several barangay captains had gone into hiding or felt threatened by the supposed planned retaliation of losing candidates.

Nulud was the second village official killed, after Benigno Sigua of Dau, Mabalacat on May 23. Fernando Santos of Jalung, Porac survived an ambush on May 21.

Panlilio, three mayors and two religious leaders on Thursday denounced the killings and asked the Philippine National Police to conduct a "factual, professional and fast investigation of these murders."

They signed a manifesto calling for sobriety and vigilance, saying that "panic and fear will only provoke the perpetrators of these crimes to step up their efforts to divide us and, therefore, make us more vulnerable to their evil designs."

Nervous

Panlilio said peace was also needed to bring about reforms in the province.

Mayors Oscar Rodriguez, Edgar Flores and Peter Flores of the City of San Fernando, Minalin and Masantol, respectively, did not mention or condemn any persons or groups who could be behind the killings.

Peter Flores confirmed "some panic" among barangay leaders but said the situation in the town was generally peaceful. He said he did not force the village leaders in his town to support any of the gubernatorial candidates.

Edgar Flores said some village leaders in his town "feel some alarm."

Rodriguez said 27 of 35 village leaders came to Tuesday's blessing of the city hall annex and some of them expressed "being nervous" about the supposed retaliation.

"In fairness to them, they did all they can to make their candidates win but in the end, it was the voters who decided the outcome of the polls," he said.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
TONG NAM AH T&B CORPORATION Unit 811 Villa Barbara, Monaco Garden Tower, Pasay City	Sung Ki Lee	General Manager
FIL-ASIAN STRATEGIC RESOURCES & PROPERTIES CORPORATION Unit 2203, 22/F The Peak Tower, 107 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Nicholas Simon Holthouse	Vice-President for Mining
FITNESS FIRST PHILIPPINES INC. 6/F L.V. Locsin Bldg., 6752 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Derren Charles Saunders	Club Consultant
OHSUNG TRAVEL & TOURS AGENCY, INC. U-13, 8137 Plaza J. Escriva Dr., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Rackyun Choi	Asst. Operations Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kehong Li	Product Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jiakai Chen	Project Manager
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Yoshinori Ikeda	Chief Civil Engineer
SKY KING EXPRESS, INC. 3/F U-12B Salem Int'l. Complex, Domestic Rd., Pasay City	Ji Hye Jung	Assistant Marketing Manager
ASIANA AIRLINES, INC. 6/F Salcedo Towers, 169 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sung Tae Kim	Manila Station Manager
REAL COOL TRADING CO. INC. Pas. I-A3 Galleria Shopping Center, Taft Ave., Pasay City	Dekun Li	Technical Consultant
AAM-PHIL NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP. Suite 6F 601-A S & L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Naizhi Li	Treasury Supervisor
PILIPINAS MAKRO, INC. Km. 21 East Service Rd., South Superhighway, Muntinlupa City	Ernest Frederick Potgieter	Director, Sales & Operations
ENCORE RECEIVABLE MANAGEMENT, INC. 24/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Ave., cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jason Michael Henning	Director, Operations
TUV SUD PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 1808 Orient Square Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Masanori Matsuda	Managing Director
MYFLOT VENTURES, INC. 805-806 One Corporate Plaza Bldg., Arnaiz Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Il Seob Kim	President
SHINRYO (PHILIPPINES) COMPANY, INC. Rm. 403-406 One Corporate Plaza, 845 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	Toru Miki	Vice President for Operation and Engineering
SHARIKAI AL SAEDI INT'L. MANPOWER INC. 1570-A Mezz Flr., Gedisco Ctr., A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila	Mohammed Ali Mohammed Al-Sakkaf	Officer/Supervisor
SOOWAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES CORPORATION Unit B, 10/F Aurora Milestone Tower, 1045 Aurora Blvd., Loyola Heights, Quezon City	Hak Soo Kim	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-9820.

(PDI June 1, 2007)

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GARCIA: 'New politics'

Speaker's challenger says he's opposite of Joe de V

By Norman Bordadora

AN 82-YEAR-OLD CONGRESSMAN-ELECT many thought had retired from politics in 2004 has regained his seat in the House of Representatives and is challenging four-time Speaker Jose de Venecia for the leadership of the chamber.

Despite his age, Pablo Garcia Sr., a two-time congressman and three-term governor of Cebu, said he wanted a new kind of politics to be practiced in the House—one bereft of the horse-trading that he said had characterized dealings in the chamber under De Venecia.

"I am the complete opposite of what JDV is," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

"A substantial number of congressmen from all political affiliations—the whole spectrum of the membership—have asked me to run in order to change the image of the House and I believe I can do something toward that end," he said.

A member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino party, Garcia was pushed into the political spotlight after Camarines Sur Rep. and Kampi president Luis Villafuerte announced his candidacy for the speakership.

Villafuerte's announcement went against the pronouncement of Interior Secretary and Kampi chair Ronaldo Puno and Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, President Arroyo's brother-in-law, that Kampi was solidly behind De Venecia's bid for a fifth term as Speaker.

The President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, also reportedly weighed in for De Venecia.

"They are entitled to their own opinion. I believe, however, my fellow Kampi members will support me consistent with their oath to support the party," Garcia said.

Garcia is the father of Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia and Government Service and Insurance System president Winston Garcia.

The Garcias have been credited with delivering from Cebu President Arroyo's winning margin of one million votes in the last presidential election.

Garcia was on his last term as Cebu governor when Ms Arroyo ran against Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004.

De Venecia is the president of Lakas-CMD. The President belongs to both Lakas and Kampi.

"Neither I nor Mr. De Venecia have the President's support. The President has expressed her neutrality in this contest, it being an internal affair of a separate and independent constitutional body," Garcia said.

"That is good enough for me," he added.

How does he intend to wrest the speakership from De Venecia, who has mastered the art of "coalition-building?"

"That is precisely why I am being urged to run. They (congressmen) want to put an end to the wheeling and dealing that demeans the House and is an affront to the dignity of each congressman," Garcia said.

He denied allegations his bid was only aimed at giving Kampi members leverage during the selection of committee chairs in the 14th Congress.

"I believe the committees should not be made [objects] of political patronage but their distribution should be based on merit and competence," he said.

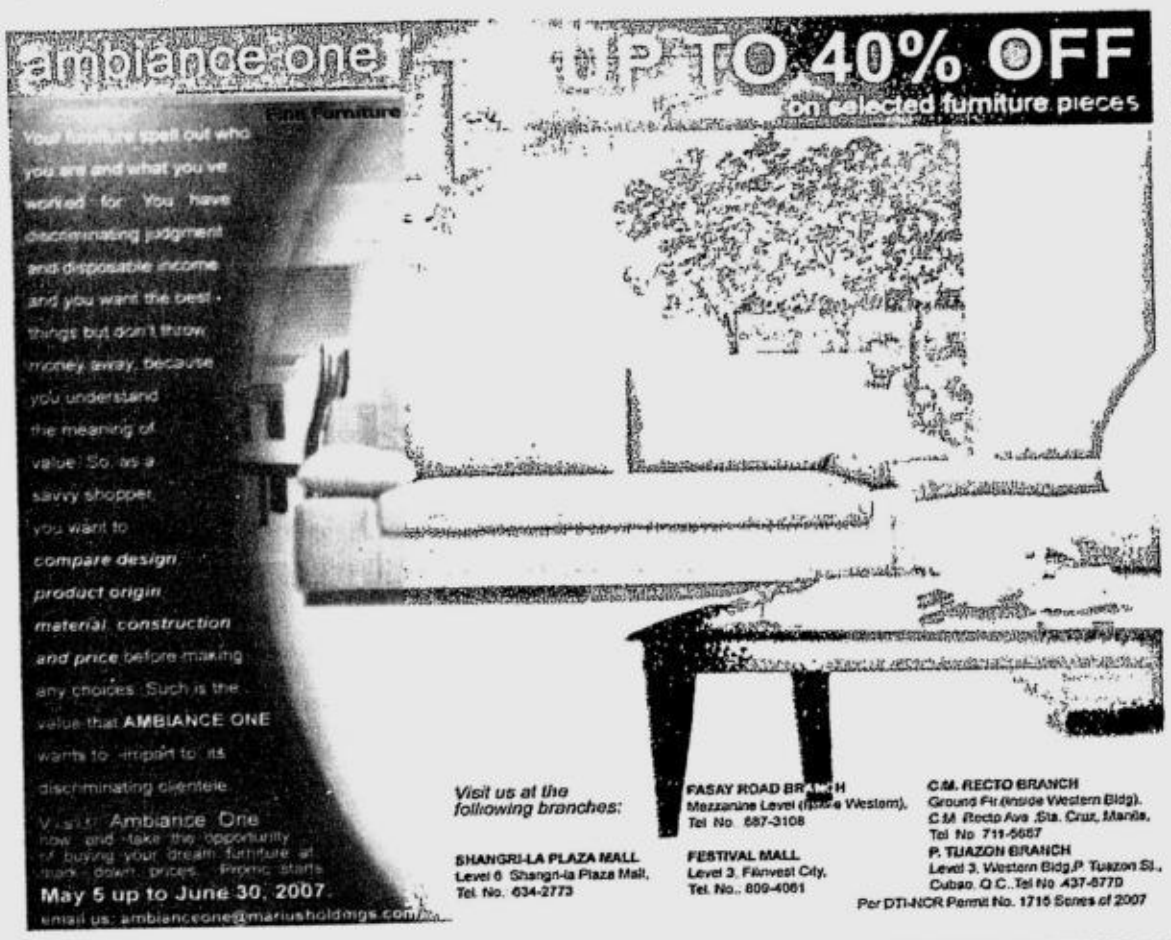
Garcia said all he had to offer was leadership and his experience as a legislator and an executive.

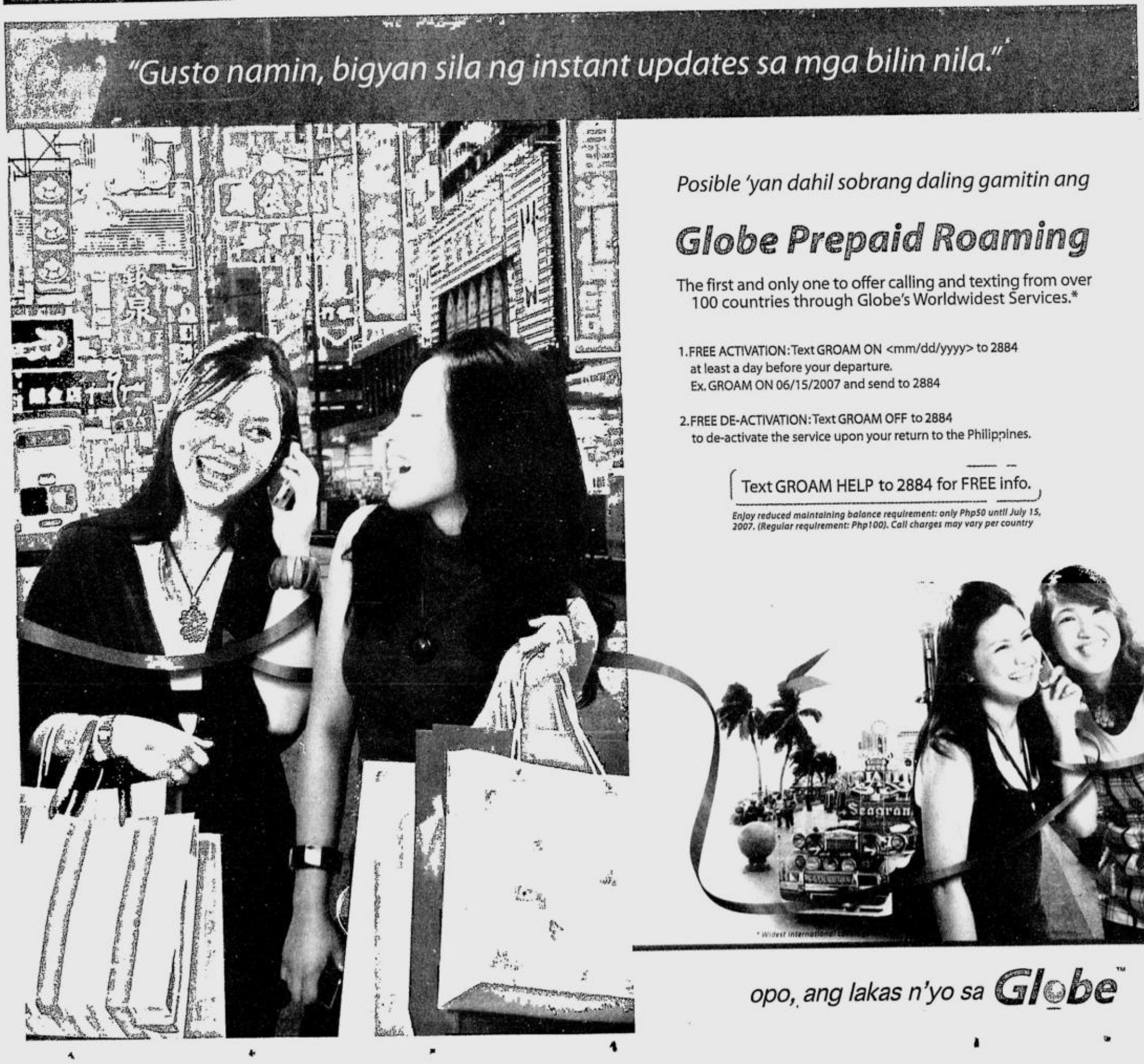
'Man of law'

"I am a man of the law and an experienced legislator. I had served Congress for eight years. In fact, during the time of (President Fidel V. Ramos), he described me as the fountain of constitutional wisdom in the House," Garcia said.

Villafuerte dismissed the fear raised by minority congressmen that Garcia's bid was aimed at getting an administration-backed representative elected minority floor leader in the next Congress.

Traditionally, the loser of the speakership race becomes the minority floor leader, or the voice of the opposition in the House.





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5 killed in hostage drama

Three of six bus robbery suspects arrested

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Nancy Carvajal

FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED yesterday in a robbery-turned-hostage taking incident that began in Makati City and ended in Valenzuela City.

The bus driver, a passenger, and three of the alleged robbers were killed, following a gun battle with responding policemen.

Three other suspects were arrested.

Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) reports identified two of the fatalities as JMK bus driver Lauro Santos, 55, of Angat, Bulacan; and Renato James Veloso, 38, of Las Piñas City and an official of the Quezon City High School.

The three other fatalities, who have yet to be unidentified, were believed to be members of the group that tried to rob passengers of the bus with license plates TWH-291.

Chief Insp. Danilo Bugay, head of the investigation unit of the Valenzuela city police, said another hostage, Isarema Baluyot, was hurt in the encounter and was brought to the Valenzuela City General Hospital.

The deadly encounter started when some 20 people were held hostage by six armed men for 45 minutes yesterday inside a passenger bus traveling from Makati to Quezon City.

The robbers were armed with pistols and hand grenades.

The hostage-taking ended in Valenzuela City where the suspects shot it out with responding police officers as they tried to escape.

Margie Villatima, 32, a bus passenger, told the INQUIRER that they were traversing the Ayala flyover in Makati City when the robbers announced the holdup at around 10 a.m.

"I put my cell phone inside my bag and hid my bag under my seat, but the guy seated beside me turned out to be one of the robbers who was armed with a hand grenade and a pistol, " she told the INQUIRER. "He told me to hand over my cell phone and bag as he aimed his gun at me."

The robbers then proceeded to collect the passengers' cellular phones, jewelry, and cash. Villatima said the robbers could not get off the bus after taking their valuables because there was a policeman at every corner.

"Natakot silang bumaba dahil baka daw ituro namin sila," (They were afraid that we would call the cops after they got off.), Villatima said. She said the robbers ordered the driver to keep the bus moving.

In Cubao, Quezon City, a passenger was able to jump off the bus and sent a distress message to the QCPD Station 7.

QCPD officials dispatched police officers to Quezon Avenue, Muñoz, and Balintawak to intercept the bus traveling on Edsa. They also coordinated with police units in Caloocan City and Valenzuela City.

On the Quezon Avenue flyover, a mobile patrol unit started tailing the bus, causing panic among the robbers. In Muñoz, bus conductor Herman Mendoza, 30, was able to jump off. The police shot at the bus' tires, but the robbers forced the driver to step on the gas. The bus finally stopped in front of a Caltex gas station on Edsa near Balintawak.

The desperate robbers yelled at Santos to drive on, saying, *"Kasalanan mo kapag may nasaktan sa mga pasahero!"* (It will be your fault if the passengers are hurt.)

Naomi Cruz, another passenger, said the bus driver told the robbers the bus could not move because of the punctured tires. This angered the robbers who then shot the driver, she said.

The robbers prepared to jump off the bus taking with them three female passengers, including Cruz. But as soon as the bus doors opened, Veloso tried to escape with his wife. The suspects shot him in the back as his wife scampered to safety. Veloso died on arrival at the Quezon City General Hospitalt.

The suspects dragged Cruz, Villatima, and another female passenger towards the Chowking restaurant where a maroon Mitsubishi Adventure (CSX-806) was parked. The passengers were able to get away from the suspects who ordered at gunpoint the driver of the car to drive towards the North Luzon Expressway.

The car drove through the toll gates past the barricade while pursuing cops were delayed when NLEX toll keepers reportedly insisted they should pay the toll .

Mobile patrol units from the Motorcycle Anti-Street Crime Operations, the QCPD, and the Caloocan City Police waited for 10 minutes until NLEX security officers raised the barricade.

Valenzuela City cops joined the pursuit. The robbers were cornered at the highway exit in Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City after police shot at the tires of their getaway vehicle.

Three of the suspects shot it out with the police officers and were killed. The other three run towards a dump truck where police caught up with them. They were identified as Jojo Baclian, Ryan Guevarra, and Ronnie Fernandez, were arrested.

Bugay said two of the suspects were killed when responding local police caught up with them in Barangay Lawangbato near the service road of the North Luzon Expressway.

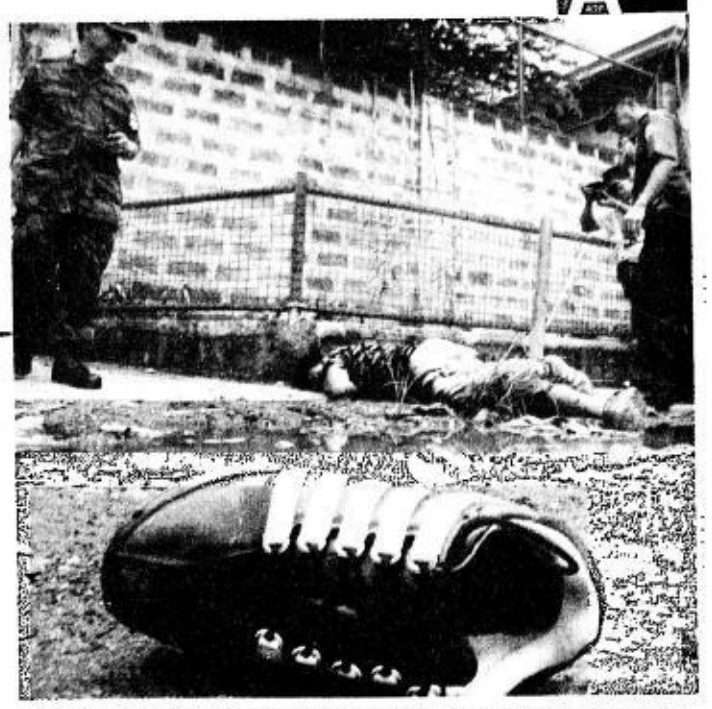
The third suspect was killed near the boundary of Valenzuela and Meycauyan, Bulacan while on board a dump truck the robbers commandeered after abandoning the van. The arrested suspects were positively identified by the hostages.

Sampaguita Cortuna, one of the rescued hostages who was still in shock when interviewed, said she pleaded with the suspects to let her go, but was ignored. Cortuna said they were dragged by the suspects towards a stolen vehicle and were threatened with death if they resisted.

Zosimo Cilocilo, driver of the Mitsubishi, said they were able to get away when they slowed down near a residential area in Valenzuela after their tires were shot. He said after two suspects were killed, the others stole a dump truck taking its driver hostage.

Ronnie Baao, the truck driver, said policemen caught up with them near the boundary of Meycauyan, Bulacan. When the third suspect was killed, he said the rest decided to surrender.

With Kristine Liu



A STILL unidentified man, one of six suspects in a daring bus robbery that started in Makati and ended in Valenzuela City yesterday, was shot dead by pursuing policemen. JOAN BONDOC

Arson out in Marina fire

By Riza T. Olchondra and Tina G. Santos

THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUthority (Marina) is ruling out arson in the two-day fire that razed their offices at the seven-story Philippine President Lines (PPL) building.

Lawyer Antero Penasales, head executive assistant, said there were no high-profile cases pending in the agency which celebrated its 33rd anniversary today..

He said Marina staff members were temporarily holding office at the Seaman's Book Annex, YIC Bldg., opposite the PPL Building and had resumed processing seamen's books.

No one was reported injured in the blaze that led to the closure of portions of roads near the PPL Building at the corner of United Nations Avenue and San Marcelino Street in Manila.

The fire started 4:10 a.m. Wednesday at the fifth floor of the building. Some 50 fire trucks from Manila and neighboring areas responded to the alarm.

After firefighters declared the fire under control at 11:52 p.m., another blaze started on the seventh floor around 4 a.m. Thursday. Manila Fire marshal Supt. Pablito Cordeta denied the fire "rekindled" three hours after they declared a fire out.

Cordeta said the cause of the blaze had not been determined, Firefighters were ill-equipped to fight the blaze, he added.

The fire destroyed Marina's overseas shipping, domestic shipping and administrator's offices.

Arnie Santiago assured seamen that the papers destroyed in the fire were blank stocks, not seamen's books, and that operations were expected to resume shortly.

Never too early to start

By DJ Yap

A COMMON DOCtor's advice is to give kids an early start on a green, leafy or yellow vegetable diet.

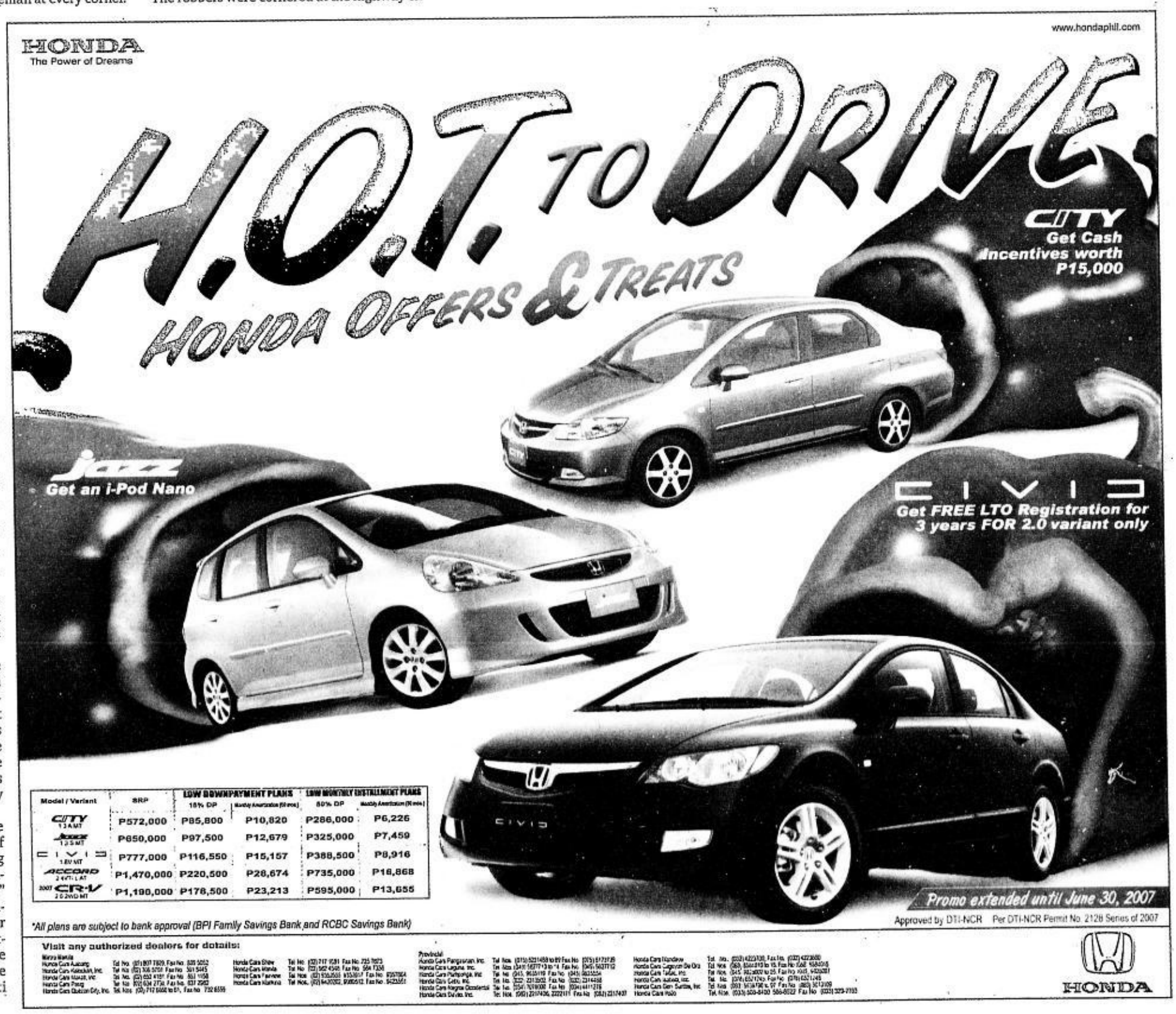
The less typical advice is to start while they are still breastfeeding.

"Children need to be exposed to vegetables as early as possible. If you breastfeed, eat vegetables so your children will get used to the taste," Dr. Jose Mariano Chuaunsu, a pediatrician, said in a forum Wednesday, part of a nationwide campaign for greater vegetable consumption among Filipino children.

"If you eat pesto for lunch, that's what your child will taste in the milk," he said

Chuaunsu, the training officer and consultant of the pediatrics department of the Manila Doctors Hospital, said people tend to prefer the kind of food that was served to them early in life.

The doctor spoke at the launching of "Makulay ang buhay sa sinabawang gulay" campaign sponsored by Unilever Knorr and its partner advocates at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City.



Model / Variant	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT PLANS 15% DP	Monthly Amortization (60 mos)	LOW MONTHLY INSTALLMENT PLANS 50% DP	Monthly Amortization (36 mos)
CITY 1.3 AMT	P572,000	P85,800	P10,820	P286,000	P6,226
Jazz 1.3 5 MT	P650,000	P97,500	P12,679	P325,000	P7,459
CIVIC 1.8V MT	P777,000	P116,550	P15,157	P388,500	P8,916
ACCORD 2.4V TI AT	P1,470,000	P220,500	P28,674	P735,000	P16,868
2007 CR-V 2.0 2WD MT	P1,190,000	P178,500	P23,213	P595,000	P13,655

High fees push students to public schools

By Allison W. Lopez

SOME 4,000 STUDENTS IN PRIvate schools transfer to public educational institutions in Manila yearly because of rising fees.

Assistant division of city schools (DCS) Superintendent Romeo Santos said parents decided to avail of free education for their children because they could no longer afford the tuition in private institutions. About 1,200 private schools and 112 state universities and colleges were allowed recently by the Department of Education to raise their fees.

Manila has the most number of colleges and universities in the country.

Santos gave the assurance that the transfer of students did not cause overcrowding in public schools. In a report to Manila mayor Lito Atienza, DCS Supt. Luisa Quiñones said the city's public schools were ready for the opening of classes on Monday. She allayed fears of shortage of classrooms and chairs.

Quiñones added that facilities, like toilets and laboratories, and equipment in the city's 71 public elementary schools and 32 public high schools had been checked.

Atienza ordered the deployment of traffic enforcers to ensure smooth vehicular flow, especially in the University Belt Areas on Recto and Taft Avenues.

Meanwhile, the City Engineer's Office and the Department of Public Services said they had already repaired roads and drainage systems to minimize flooding during the rainy season.

Judge in Jimenez case inhibits herself

By DJ Yap and Julie Aurelio

THE JUDGE WHO ORDERED THE rescue of Carol Castañeda-Jimenez, estranged wife of former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, has inhibited herself from the case.

Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 69 Judge Lorifel Acap Pahimna granted a motion by Jimenez's lawyers seeking her inhibition from the case because of her alleged bias for Carol.

In a ruling dated May 30, the judge ordered records of the case be forwarded to the executive judge for transfer or new raffle.

"A judge may not be legally prohibited from sitting in a litigation, but when circumstances appear that will induce doubt on his honest actuation and probity in favor of either party, or incite such a state of mind, he should conduct a careful self-examination," she said.

"He should exercise his discretion in a way that the people's faith in the courts of justice is not impaired. The better course for a judge is to inhibit himself," the judge added.

Jimenez alleged Pahimna was partial to Carol when she "acted as her counsel by giving petitioner's lawyer professional advice, particularly (in) the filing of an action for habeas corpus in another sala ..."

Jimenez's lawyers also accused the judge of prejudging the case when she said she would not grant their motion to dismiss the case even without the comments of the petitioner.

Pahimna issued recently an order to take Carol from the Silvercrest Foundation, a drug rehabilitation facility in Las Piñas City.

At about 9:30 p.m. on May 25, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Special Task Force entered the facility and took Carol, who had been confined there since May 16 after eight men allegedly abducted her in Makati City.

Meanwhile, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, Jimenez's counsel, vowed to seek the disbarment of Carol's lawyer Lorna Kapunan. "She issued a misleading attribution to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Obviously, she is lying," Chavez said.

Earlier, Chavez questioned an INQUIRER article quoting Kapunan as saying: "It was not only the Pasig Regional Trial Court that ordered the rescue. It was the Supreme Court, through Senior Deputy Court Administrator Zenaida Elepano and upon (orders) of Chief Justice Reynato Puno, that instructed the Pasig court to issue the rescue order."

In a letter to Puno, Chavez sought a clarification, saying the alleged act would be a "clear interference in court cases still pending before lower courts.

The Chief Justice denied having instructed the Pasig court to issue the rescue order. "I do not know the parties in the case, neither the judge," he added.

Kapunan sought Chavez's disbarment earlier this week, saying Chavez should have advised his client to heed the protection order and stay away from Carol.

METROBRIEFS

Palao ready to face charges

SAMER Palao, the government's main witness in the landmark drug case that led to the trial of suspected drug lord Amin Imam Boratong, said he is willing to face criminal charges filed against him. Palao said that he would make the move, to refute allegations by the defense that he agreed to testify for the state to escape the charges and get government protection. In yesterday's hearing in the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, Raymond Fortun, Boratong's lawyer, said Palao executed an affidavit in July 2006 detailing Boratong's drug operations when he heard that there was an arrest warrant for him for murder and kidnapping from a Cagayan de Oro court. In previous affidavits, the defense also noted that Palao also faced frustrated murder charges in Mindanao and Manila. He was also convicted of drug pushing in 2001 in Pasig City. Palao said he served as Boratong's right hand man in the latter's P900-million shabu operations in Pasig City that was raided and demolished in February 2006.

Kristine L. Alave

Crisologo in hot water

QUEZON City Rep. Vincent Crisologo is facing charges of assault and malicious mischief for intervening during the demolition of illegal structures along Edsa, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group Director Roberto Esquivel accused the lawmaker of interfering in a "legitimate MMDA operation" in Barangay Masambong in Quezon City on Wednesday. The MMDA SCOG members were tearing down shanties and other illegal structures near a bridge in Barangay Masambong when Crisologo stepped into the picture, Esquivel said. Crisologo threw wooden slabs and rocks at the demolition team, the MMDA official alleged. The operation is part of a project to demolish shanties and other illegal structures on the highway, according to Esquivel. Crisologo had questioned the legality of the clearing operations, saying the MMDA allegedly failed to present documents showing the operations were legitimate.

Faith Alayon

Franciscan Minister General in town

JOSE Rodriguez Carballo, OFM, the incumbent Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, is visiting the country until June 5. As Minister General, he heads the worldwide religious congregation more popularly known as the OFM Franciscans. His four-day visit will take him to the Franciscan houses in Metro Manila. Members of the Franciscan province of San Pedro Bautista in the Philippines are expected to congregate from all over the country to attend the various activities planned to coincide with the visit.

Thaksin banned from Thai politics for 5 years

THAKSIN AFP

BANGKOK—EXILED FORMER THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was banned from politics for five years on Wednesday and his party, the first to win an absolute majority in the country's history, disbanded.

The Constitutional Tribunal, at the end of a marathon 10-hour televised explanation of its verdicts on charges of breaches of election laws, said the ban extended to the entire 111-member executive committee of his Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais).

The party will reform under a new name, but without the charisma of the billionaire Thaksin who was idolized by millions in the countryside and among the urban poor as the one Thai politician they believed really cared about them.

"This is not the last day of Thai Rak Thai, brothers and sisters," party spokesperson Laddawan Wongsriwong told a distraught crowd of 1,000 people at party headquarters which hissed and booed at the verdict.

The time the tribunal took to explain the cases for and against Thai Rak Thai and the opposition Democrat Party—Thailand's oldest party which was absolved of any wrongdoing—and their verdicts may have been an effort to head off feared trouble from Thaksin supporters, analysts said.

But with so many Thai Rak Thai officials banned, that possibility was not dead, they said.

"It's a big surprise because banning more than 100 people will make the political game unfair. It's negative for the country's political climate, which needs checks and balances," leading financial analyst Thanawat Patchimkul said.

"It's a political massacre," said Kongkiat Opaswongkarn, head of a leading brokerage.

Thaksin, living in exile in London, was saddened by the punishments, his lawyer said.

"It is an unexpected ruling and we are disappointed by the verdict. It's too harsh on Thai Rak Thai," Thaksin's lawyer and spokesperson Noppadon Pattama told Reuters in Bangkok.

The tribunal found Thai Rak Thai guilty of paying a small party to run in elections last year to circumvent rules on single candidate polls.

It also said Thai Rak Thai paid two small parties to bribe an election official to falsify their records to show candidates were eligible to run in elections Thaksin called as street protesters accused him of abusing power and corruption. *Reuters*

Asia expects dramatic surge in cancer rates

SINGAPORE—ASIA IS BRACING for a dramatic surge in cancer rates over the next decade as people in the developing world live longer and adopt bad Western habits that greatly increase the risk of the disease.

Smoking, drinking and eating unhealthy foods—all linked to various cancers—will combine with larger populations and fewer deaths from infectious diseases to drive Asian cancer rates up 60 percent by 2020, some experts predict.

But unlike in wealthy countries where the world's top medical care is found, there will likely be no prevention or treatment for many living in poor countries.

"What happened in the Western world in the '60s or '70s will happen here in the next 10 to 20 years as life expectancy gets longer and we get better control on more common causes of deaths," said Dr. Jatin P. Shah, a professor of surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, who attended a cancer conference last month in Singapore.

"The habit of alcohol consumption, smoking and dietary changes will increase the risk of Western world cancers to the Eastern world," Shah said.

An estimated 40 percent of cancers worldwide can be prevented by exercise, eating healthy foods and not using tobacco, according to the World Health Organization.

But more people in Asia are moving into cities and becoming overweight and obese from inactivity. They are replacing fruits and vegetables with fatty meals full of meat and salt, which is leading to increases in stomach and colon cancers. Meanwhile, traditional diseases like malaria are killing fewer people—building an aging population that's a prime target for cancer.

The effect is already startling, with the Asia-Pacific making up about half of the world's cancer deaths and logging 4.9 million new cases, or 45 percent, of the global toll in 2002.

That number is projected to leap to 7.8 million by 2020 if nothing changes, according to Dr. Donald Max Parkin, a research fellow at the University of Oxford who is a leading authority on global cancer patterns and trends. *AP*

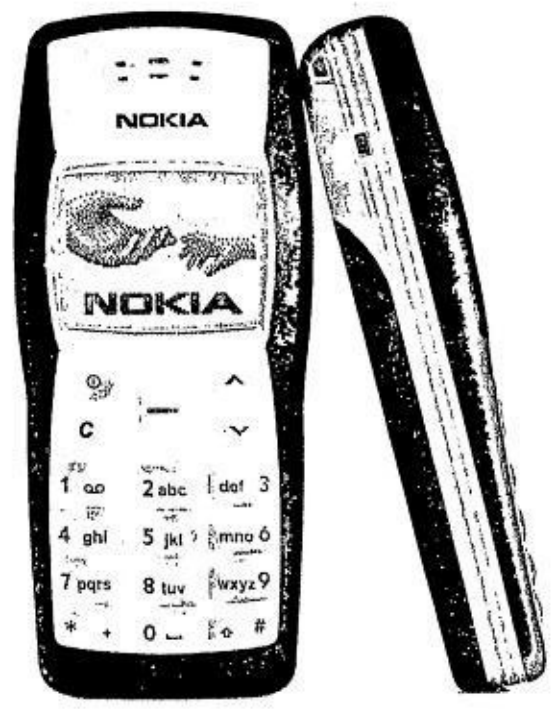


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Photo shows the Nokia 1100 phone. The design team that conceived Nokia's new handset in 2002 called it simply "Penny," a modest nickname for what would five years and 200 million units later become the world's top-selling consumer electronics product. REUTERS

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WORLDBRIEFS

Malaysia court turns down Christian convert

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA—Malaysia's most famous Christian convert lost her drawn-out legal battle to officially renounce Islam in a landmark court verdict that could further polarize the country's multi-religious society. A three-judge panel of the Federal Court, the highest civilian court of the land, rejected an appeal by Lina Joy, ruling in a 2-1 majority decision that it has no power to remove the word "Islam" from the religion category of her government identity card. "She cannot simply at her own whims enter or leave her religion," Judge Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim said on Wednesday. "She must follow rules." "This appeal is rejected," Ahmad Fairuz said. Joy's case is linked to Islamic laws and therefore falls under the jurisdiction of the Islamic Shariah court, he said. "Civil courts cannot interfere," he added. The ruling is likely to drive another wedge between communities in Malaysia, where Buddhist, Christian and Hindu minorities have in recent years complained their religious rights are held hostage to Islam. Muslim groups, who feel Islam is under threat because of people like Joy, hailed the verdict. *AP*

5 Americans, Briton, Canadian die in crash

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—Five Americans, a Briton and a Canadian died when a Chinook helicopter was apparently shot down in Afghanistan's most volatile province, officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility. Nato's International Security Assistance Force said other troops rushing to the scene were ambushed and had to call in air support to drive off their attackers. Initial reports suggested the helicopter was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade on Wednesday evening, said the US official, who insisted on speaking anonymously because the crash was still under investigation. Nato said there were no survivors. *AP*

Brunei sultan's daughter to wed in June

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—The daughter of Brunei's wealthy Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah will wed in June, a government website announced on Thursday. The royal wedding of Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah and Khairul Khalil is scheduled for June 10, with the wedding banquet to take place the following day, the information department's website said. In line with royal tradition, the official wedding ceremony will take place over two weeks, starting Friday with several royal ceremonies scheduled in the lead-up to the wedding day. The princess, who turned 31 in March, is the fourth child of the sultan and works at the department of environment, parks and recreation as a senior officer. She holds a masters in environment and development from King's College in London. The groom, 32, currently works as an assistant executive officer in the prime minister's office. *AFP*

Bush calls for rise in global AIDS funding

WASHINGTON—President Bush called on Wednesday for Congress to spend $30 billion to fight global AIDS over the next five years, a near-doubling of funding that is part of a White House effort to burnish Bush's humanitarian credentials before he meets leaders of the Group of 8 industrialized nations next week. The initiative, if approved, would build on a program that grew out of the president's 2003 State of the Union Address, when he asked for $15 billion over five years for prevention, treatment and care of AIDS patients in developing countries. Congress ultimately approved more than $18 billion, but the program is set to expire next year. AIDS advocacy organizations generally praised the president for proposing the additional money, but said the plan—which Bush said would provide drugs for 2.5 million infected patients—does not go nearly far enough toward meeting the international community's stated goal of treating the estimated 10 million infected patients in developing nations. *AP*

Indonesia confirms 78th bird flu death

JAKARTA—A 45-year-old man has died from bird flu in Indonesia, taking the death toll in the nation worst hit by the virus to 78, a health ministry official said on Thursday. The man died on Monday at the general hospital in the city of Solo on the country's main island of Java, said Wibisono from the ministry's bird flu information center. The victim had fallen ill after the chickens he was raising at his home in a town in Central Java had also become sick and started dying, said Wibisono. Contact with infected birds is the most common form of transmission of the deadly virus to humans, experts say. *AFP*

Japan rejects war compensation for Koreans

TOKYO—A Japanese court on Thursday refused to award compensation to Korean women who were allegedly forced to work in a Japanese machinery factory during World War II. In the latest rejection in a string of similar cases, the Nagoya high court upheld a lower court's ruling that the six Korean women—aged 76 to 78—and a relative of a now deceased woman had lost their rights to seek damages. Judge Kunio Aoyama acknowledged the plaintiffs were "forced to come to Japan and work after being threatened or deceived." But he also said that under the agreements between Japan and South Korea when they restored relations in 1965, the case was a matter between states rather than between states and individuals. *AFP*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN creates court for Hariri's murder

A MOSAIC of Lebanon's former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri at his grave in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. AP

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY COUNcil on Wednesday voted to set up an international court to try suspects in the murder of Lebanese ex-Premier Rafiq Hariri, whose death sent shockwaves through the nation two years ago.

The legally binding resolution, which was narrowly approved, sets June 10 as the date for an agreement between the United Nations and the Beirut government to establish the court enters into force.

Ten of the Security Council's 15 members voted in favor of Resolution 1757, with veto-wielding members Russia and China as well as South Africa, Indonesia and Qatar—three non-permanent members—abstaining.

The vote came at a time of high tensions in deeply divided Lebanon, exacerbated by a deadly standoff between the army and an al-Qaida-inspired Islamist militia and a spate of bomb attacks, with security high in and around the capital Beirut.

There are fears the UN decision could further rattle the stability of the country, where the Western-backed government is facing calls for its ouster by the pro-Syrian opposition.

And while Lebanon's press echoed the rifts over the court, Hariri's MP son Saad, the leader of the anti-Syrian parliamentary majority, urged unity.

"Let's all join hands in defending the international tribunal ... as an opportunity for all Lebanese to unite," he said.

His father and 22 other people were killed in a massive truck bombing in Beirut in February 2005, widely blamed on Syria, which was then forced to end nearly 30 years of military and political domination in Lebanon.

An initial UN inquiry implicated Damascus and its allies in Lebanon, where four pro-Syrian security chiefs were arrested. But Syria has vehemently denied any involvement.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora said a trial would allow for "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" to be revealed, saying the court is "not directed against anyone and especially not sister Syria."

The project has been at the heart of a long-running political dispute that has paralyzed Siniora's government since the opposition pulled out six cabinet ministers in November.

At the United Nations, the six cosponsors—the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Slovakia and Italy—hailed the text while other nations expressed concern about interfering in an already unstable situation.

The tribunal, which will be held in an as yet undetermined "neutral" location, is not likely to be up and running until several months after the treaty enters into force, diplomats said.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett acknowledged that the "tribunal has been a politically sensitive issue" and applauded the Security Council for adopting the resolution in order to move forward.

"The Security Council has demonstrated its support for the government of Lebanon and its commitment to the principle that there shall be no impunity for political assassinations, in Lebanon or elsewhere." *AFP*

Rice clashes with Russian on Kosovo, missiles

POTSDAM, GERMANY—THE United States and Russia, with relations between them at their most contentious since the collapse of the Soviet Union, openly sparred here on Wednesday at a meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of 8 industrialized nations.

The Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, accused the United States of starting a new arms race and implicitly threatened to veto any UN Security Council resolution that, like the one proposed by the United States and its European allies, would recognize the independence of Kosovo.

Even as the White House and the Kremlin were announcing plans for a rare kiss-and-make-up summit meeting between President Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin, their top diplomats were clashing at the meeting here in the historic castle where Churchill, Truman and Stalin met to decide how to carve up Germany after World War II.

This time, the big issue was the carving up of the former Yugoslavia, where the mostly Albanian-inhabited province of Kosovo wants to secede from Serbia. That, along with the American plan to place antimissile bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, has pitted Russia against the West in a war of words with flashbacks to the Cold War.

Lavrov harshly criticized Washington's plan to build a missile shield over countries that were once part of the Soviet sphere of influence. And he took issue with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for calling Russian concerns about it ludicrous.

"All they're saying is, 'Don't worry, it's not aimed at you,'" Lavrov said at a news conference after the meeting. "It's such answers that are ludicrous."

"We quite agree," Rice said with a sly smile, countering that Russian officials themselves have bragged that Russia's strategic defense systems can easily overwhelm any missile defense system that the United States puts up in Europe. Lavrov was having none of it. "I hope that no one has to prove that Condi is right about that," he interjected.

Lavrov did not tone down his ire over the Kosovo plan after the meeting, when the foreign ministers held their news conference and most tried to act cordially to one another. He hinted, as Russian officials have in the past, that Russia would veto any Security Council resolution that sought to recognize Kosovo as an independent country, unless Serbia agreed first, which diplomats said was extremely unlikely. *NYT*

A GENERAL view of the 8,848-meter (29,028 feet) high world's tallest mountain Mount Everest (center) taken from an aircraft. AFP

Record 514 climbers conquer Everest this year

KATMANDU—MORE CLIMBERS have conquered Everest this year than in any year since the world's highest mountain was first scaled in 1953, Nepal's chief mountaineeering official said on Thursday.

As the narrow Spring window for climbing to the top of the world draws to a close, Ang Tsering Sherpa said 514 climbers had scaled Everest from the Nepal and Tibetan sides as of May 28.

"This is the highest number in the history of climbing Everest since the first ascent in 1953," the president of the Nepal Mountaineering Association told AFP.

"We have had various world records broken this season, so it has been an outstanding year for mountaineering," he added.

Climbers use a narrow window in May ahead of annual monsoon rains to scale Himalayan peaks, and attempts are also made in October after the monsoon ends and before the onset of winter.

Although one or two expeditions remain on the northern approach to Everest from Tibet, the fast approaching monsoon, which sweeps the sub-continent from June to September, means they only have a few more days to reach the top.

Famously conquered for the first time by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary, the 8,848-meter (29,198-foot) peak has since been summited a total of 3,514 times, Sherpa said.

JAPANESE Katsusuke Yanagisawa, at 71 years the oldest person to climb Mount Everest. AP

The most impressive of this year's records is the 17th successful summit of Everest by Appa Sherpa, a Nepali high altitude guide, beating his own previous record.

An American 18-year-old became the youngest foreign woman to climb to the top, and a retired Japanese teacher became the oldest person, at 71.

But a combination of bad weather, avalanches, exhaustion and high altitude sickness claim a number of lives every year, and the final approaches to the summit are littered with corpses.

This season alone, seven people, including six from South Korea, the Czech Republic, Japan and Italy, have died. *AFP*

Saudi prisoner kills self at Guantanamo, US says

MIAMI—A SAUDI ARABIAN prisoner died of an apparent suicide at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base on Wednesday, the US military said.

"The detainee was found unresponsive and not breathing in his cell by guards. The detainee was pronounced dead by a physician after all lifesaving measures had been exhausted," the US Southern Command in Miami said in a statement.

The military did not indicate how the prisoner died nor release his name.

He is the fourth detainee to die of apparent suicide at the detention camp, which opened in January 2002 and holds about 380 foreign terrorist suspects on the US naval base in southeastern Cuba.

Three other prisoners—two Saudis and a Yemeni—hanged themselves with clothing and bedding in their cells last June and their deaths are still under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

In Washington, Amnesty International advocacy director Jumana Musa said news of another suicide at the detention camp was not surprising.

"When you look at the conditions that people are in, so many people are in isolation so many people held without any kind of certainty. It's a really extreme result of what's a really extreme situation," she said.

"I don't know how many more indications need to be there that Guantanamo is not a good idea." *Reuters*

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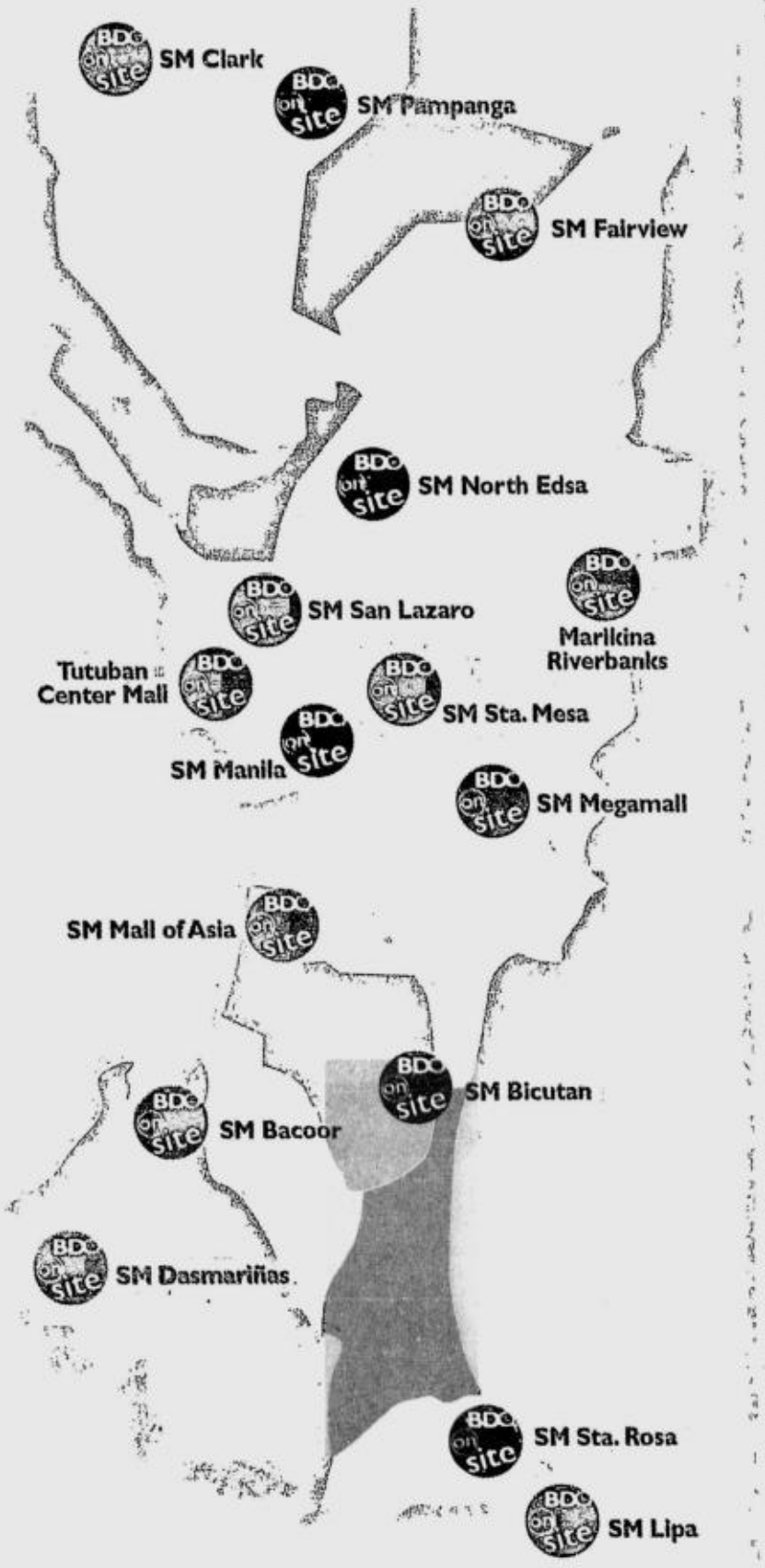

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PBL FINAL FOUR

Toyota vs Cebuana; Henkel vs Harbour

BURGER King's Nestor David shoots over Toyota Balintawak's Dennis Daa.

By Jasmine W. Payo

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK CAME BLAZING ON ALL fronts yesterday to secure the last semifinal berth in the PBL Unity Cup.

Halting a four-game skid, the Road Kings overwhelmed Burger King, 76-50, in their knockout quarterfinal match at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

The Road Kings will go up against top-seeded Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala in a best-of-three semifinal series starting tomorrow.

Defending champion Harbour Centre battles Henkel Sista in the other Final Four duel.

GAMES TOMORROW
(The Arena, San Juan)
(Game 1 of best-of-three semifinal series)
2 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs Cebuana Lhuillier
4 p.m.—Henkel Sista vs Harbour Centre

The Road Kings' offensive game went full throttle early as they ripped the Whoppers starting the second period.

And the points unexpectedly came from guard Eugene Tan, the veteran league journeyman.

Tan scored all of his eight points during a pivotal 20-2 Toyota explosion in the second quarter as the Road Kings broke away for good,

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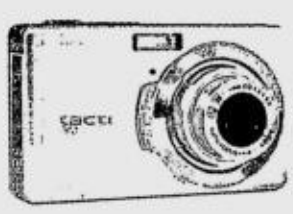
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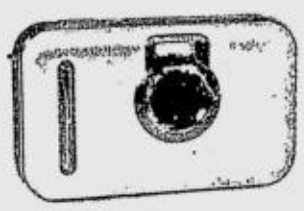
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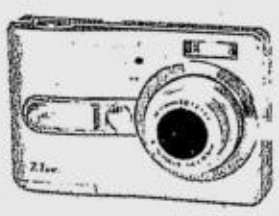
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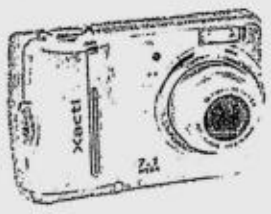
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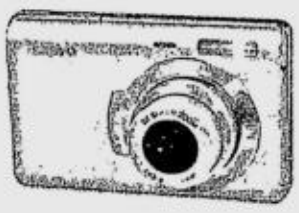
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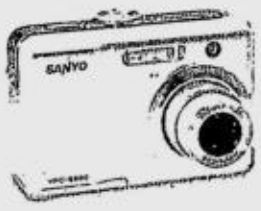
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Aces eye semis; Adducul debuts for Purefoods

ANTIPOLO—ALASKA SHOOTS FOR AT least a tie for the remaining semifinal slot today even as Rommel Adducul debuts for Purefoods in the Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup at the Ynares Center here.

The Aces collide with the Sta. Lucia Realtors at 7:20 p.m. hoping to get the jump on Talk 'N Text and Barangay Ginebra with a 12th win at the close of their campaign in the elimination.

Red Bull booked the first semifinal slot Wednesday night after a 105-103 decision of Coca-Cola, leaving the battle for the second berth wide open with Air21, despite being 10-7 at this point, still mathematically in the hunt.

Talk 'N Text and the Gin Kings, tied with the Aces at 11-6, slug it out with San Miguel and Air21, respectively, in matches that will close out the round on Sunday.

Should Alaska win tonight and the Phone Pals and the Kings drop their respective matches, the Aces will book No. 2 seeding and will earn a break of at least three weeks while the others try to make their way to the semis.

Meanwhile, Adducul, who sat behind the Red Bull bench the other night, tries to help the Tender Juicy Giants fight off elimination when they tangle with the Welcoat Dragons earlier at 4:35 p.m.

Adducul was shipped by San Miguel Beer to Purefoods in a swap for Enrico Villanueva early in the week but the Bulls decided to transfer him to Purefoods in favor of Don Camaso and the Giants' second round draft rights for 2007 or 2008.

The runaround given Adducul was not entirely surprising since Rommel has failed to contribute heavily to the SMB cause despite getting his wish of being moved out of Barangay Ginebra because of lack of playing time.

The 6-foot-6 former star in the defunct MBA was averaging paltry numbers while with the Beermen, who won eight straight games at one point in the tournament without getting much help from the Tuguegarao native.

A Purefoods (5-12) win would put the Giants in the wild card phase and eliminate the Dragons (4-13)

The Giants would also give the Sta. Lucia Realtors (5-12) a free ride into the round regardless of the outcome of their game against the Aces.

Alaska, the team of the 1990s, is expected to field Rosell Ellis tonight with the Aces' all-around import close to 100 percent now after a leg injury.

Willie Miller, Sonny Thoss and Jeffrey Cariaso will be the main offensive weapons of the Aces, who are getting more and more solid with Mike Cortez recovering well from knee surgery.

Musong R. Castillo

STANDINGS	W	L
Red Bull	13	5
Alaska	11	6
Talk 'N Text	11	6
Ginebra	11	6
Air21	10	7
San Miguel	9	8
Coca-Cola	7	11
Purefoods	5	12
Sta. Lucia	5	12
Welcoat	4	13

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center)
4:35 p.m.—Welcoat vs. Purefoods
7:20 p.m.—Alaska vs. Sta. Lucia

ROMEL Adducul plays for his fourth PBA team today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

2 Fil-Ams boost RP quintet pool

By Musong R. Castillo

IN ORDER TO FACE UP to—and be at par with—most foreign teams, the Philippine national team is putting more international faces in its roster.

Coach Chot Reyes has added the names of Fil-Americans Gabe Norwood and Kelly Williams to the training pool roster as the Philippines hopes to make the Olympic circle again after being absent for more than two decades.

This was agreed during a meeting yesterday between Reyes, officials of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas and PBA commissioner Noli Eala to discuss the RP team's "expansion plans" at the Edsa Shangri-La.

At the same time, Reyes said he has ruled out a stint in the Qatar Invitationals this month. The team will instead play in the Jones Cup in Taipei and a tournament in Belgrade before plunging into Fiba Asia action in Japan in July.

The joust in Tokushima, Japan, is the qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Games where one slot is left to be fought for by Asian teams since China has earned automatic entry for being the host.

No one was cut from the Philippine team, which finished fourth in the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup in Tehran, Iran, before running roughshod over the field in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) in Thailand recently.

Norwood, the former George Mason standout in the NCAA, is a 6-foot-4 point guard.

Reyes said they will be awaiting Norwood's citizenship papers so he would become eligible to play for the Philippines.

Williams, meanwhile, leads all rookies in the PBA statistical points race and is seen by many as a multidimensional player who can serve the RP team well on both ends.

However, he will have to get his release from mother ballclub Sta. Lucia.

World Pool moves to Big Dome

By Marlon Bernardino, *Contributor*

FROM THE PICC TO THE BIG DOME.

The 2007 World Pool Championships will be moving over to the Araneta Coliseum when it is held here on Nov. 3-11 with over 200 players from at least 50 countries taking part.

Heading the sure entries is reigning titlist Ronato Alcano, who won last year's edition at the Philippine International Convention Center at the expense of German ace Ralf Souquet.

The 34-year-old Alcano went on to become a double world champion after he topped the WPC 8-ball championship held in the United Arab Emirates. He duplicated the feat of Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes, the 1999 WPC Cardiff ruler, and Taiwanese sensation Wu Chia-ching, the 2005 double world champ.

The 54-year-old Reyes arrived the other day after an exhibition series at the Holiday Resort and Spa Guam against the top eight players in the US territory. Reyes won seven of his eight matches.

Other Pinoy cue masters in this year's WPC main draw are 2004 Taiwan WPC champion Alex Pagulayan, 2005 WPC semifinalist Marlon Manalo, Lee Vann Corteza, Dennis Orcollo, Antonio Lining, Jeffrey de Luna, Ramil Gallego and Rodolfo Luat.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante is also likely to qualify outright after topping the 2007 UPA Pro Tour last April in Normandie Casino in Los Angeles, according to tournament organizer Yen Makabenta of Raya Sports.

Ozamiz cagers overpower Montaña Davao

STANDINGS	W	L
Iligan	6	1
Tagaytay	5	1
Pagadian	6	4
Ozamiz	4	2
Valencia	5	4
Quezon	4	5
GensSan	3	4
Davao	2	8
Iloilo	1	9

GAME TODAY
(Pagadian gym)
7 p.m.—Montaña Davao vs. Pagadian

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING Grand Slam champion Ozamiz Cotta continued its steady climb in the 2007 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament Wednesday by trouncing Montana Davao, 94-87, at the Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Bruce Dacia led Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers with 14 points, four rebounds and three blocks.

Ozamiz used a balanced scoring attack to make it two in a row over the visiting Jewelers in the tourney supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, San Miguel Beer, Caltex, Sun Cellular, Firefly Lightings, Trans Asia Shipping Lines, Molten, Nature's Spring, BasketballTV and Viva Prime Channel.

It was Ozamiz's fourth win in six outings, moving it to solo fourth ahead of Valencia Golden Harvest.

The Jewelers trailed by only one on the first quarter, 24-25, and even tied the count at 44 with 45 seconds left in the second.

The last time Davao threatened Ozamiz was at 87-84 early in the payoff period.

Businessman Armando Quibod's Jewelers try to improve their 208 record when they play the Pagadian Explorers at 7 p.m. today in Pagadian.

The scores:

Ozamiz (94) - Liangco 14, Dacia 14, Basco 12, Bansil 12, Alvarado 10, Cavan 6, Gatumabto 6, Nicdao 5, Sampilo 4, Delina 1, Alberto 1, Balares 1

Davao (87) - Ilanga 17, Fernandez 14, Lamocha 13, Araman 11, Espinosa 6, Jawod 6, Braga 5, Ayson 4, Dawai 4, Abanes 3, Canlas 2

Quarterscores: 25-20, 49-44, 77-67, 94-87

SPORTSWATCH

Tams down Falcons, gain Nike loop semis

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY HARDLY WORKED OUT A SWEAT IN BEATING Adamson University, 92-71, to clinch the first semifinal round berth in the 2007 Nike Summer League basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Malate, Manila. Paul Sanga and three other players scored in double figures for the Glen Capacio-mentored Tamaraws, who will meet the winner between Letran and Mapua in the crossover semis. Sanga, a 6-foot-3 forward, led the Tamaraws with 18 points. JR Cawaling scored 17 points, Marc Baracael added 11 and Marc Baroca contributed 10 points for the Morayta-based Tamaraws. Rhoel Hugnatan carried the fight for the Falcons with 21 points. FEU completed a double celebration by humbling University of Santo Tomas, 79-64, in the junior division. The Baby Tamaraws leaned on Fred Lim and Shane Ko in beating the Baby Tigers to advance to the semifinals. Lim fired 16 points and Ko 14.

Makati Coliseum 8- cock derby finals today

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MAKATI COLISEUM TODAY AS THE FINALE OF THE Makati Invitational 8-Cock Super Derby fires off at 4 p.m. with 70 matches on tap. Today's qualifiers will vie for the guaranteed prize of P3 million. Four participants lead the race with four wins each: defending champion Jun Pascual (Madre Sierra), Ruel Ricafort (RT 114 Two), Lito Orillaza (Winning Time Jobo 3) and Top of the World entry. Fourteen others have three wins each, including Louie Cua (LCC Jed Joy), Rep. Baby Asisto (RMM), Edwin Yap (Michael and Family), Sam Mendoza (SM Scorpio), Gov. Ito Ynares (Pasay International June 5), Magno Lim (Magsi), Joey delos Santos (San Roque), Rudy Diestro (Sta. Martha), Ric Aquino (Kay Akino), Amor Salvanera (Salpukan sa Makati).

Roligon Hatawan: P3.5 million at stake

THE ANNUAL HATAWAN SA TAG-ULAN 6- COCK DERBY, ROLIGON MEGA Cockpit's top draw during the rainy season, sizzles on July 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 with an eye-popping guaranteed prize of P3.5 million. The derby hosted by Rolly Ligon requires an entry fee of P8,800. The fastest win champion on July 11 will recive a P500,000 bonus while the second placer gets P50,000. Hatawan attracts at least 300 entries every year and most of the participants are smalltime cockers and backyard breeders. Cesar Marquez of Quezon City and Ricky Yulo of Davao topped last year's event (356 entries). Marquez drove home the bonus Honda Civic for being the fastest win champion.

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Rebound (6), Extreme Tower (1), The Dominator (5), Top Most (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (3), Silver Cho Cho (6), Order of Merit (4), Gelay's Charm (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Traditional (4), Lady Cugat/Material Street/Conjugal Bullet (6)
Race 4—Quasimodo (4), Common Goal (5), Mapagkwento/Coll More (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Feverishly/Sustained Pressure (7), Platinum Garden (6), Imminent Star (3), Pride and Joy (4)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Do Re Mi (3), Stingray (4), China Girl (6), Dancing Slew (7)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Princess of Aachen (1), Hear Me (7), Getting Darker (8), Our Sailor Moon (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Ger Francis (3), Ocean Deep (2), Gandam (6), Condoleeza/Eye Candy (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—C Tonet (9), Mister Cool (3), Real Triumph (5), Pentagon (7), Holy King (6), Sun Chaser (1)

BY TOP CHOICE

Toyota vs Cebuana; Henkel . . .

From page A23

32-14.

"We talked about what's our advantage over Burger King—it was our championship experience," said Toyota coach Ariel Vanguardia. "And who else would symbolize that championship experience than Eugene Tan. We gave him the minutes he deserved and he responded."

With Joe Devance playing tough defense underneath, the Road Kings held the Whoppers to a measly 21 percent shooting clip in the first half.

The Whoppers could score only seven points in the second period, the last five coming in the final 54 seconds of the first half.

Devance, who scored his first win in five games with the Road Kings, had 10 points, 12 rebounds, two assists and two blocks.

"He's more vocal now," said Vanguardia. "He has been quiet since joining the team. He has also been practicing doubly hard."

The Whoppers forged a do-or-die contest after edging the Road Kings, 73-68, last Tuesday.

The scores:

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 76—Dedicatoria 14, Cruz 14, Devance 10, Rodriguez 10, Tan 8, Daa 7, Cagoco 4, Cabahug 4, Guerrero 3, Coronel 2, Baluyot 0, Fajardo 0.

BURGER KING 50—Quiñahan 14, Buenafe 12, Bravo 10, Del Rosario 5, David 4, Viray 3, Saguindel 2, Te 0, Dizon 0, Mendoza 0, Ballesteros 0, Aquino 0, Garrido 0, Urbiztondo 0.

Quarters: 12-12, 36-19, 50-31, 76-50

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
(Republic of the Philippines)
TANGGAPAN NG PANGULO
(Office of the President)
TANGGAPAN NG SWEEPSTAKES
PANGKAWANGGAWA NG PILIPINAS
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C., Philippines
P.O. Box 141

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) is inviting interested individuals and entities to submit proposals for the supply of Small Town Lottery (STL) game management system and the appropriate mobile point-of-sale (POS) devices/handheld terminals that may be used to maximize sales collection and remittance and to ensure transparency in the PCSO STL Project in an experimental basis.

The proponent/s should be willing to implement a live proof of the concept in actual operation situation in partnership with the PCSO and its designated authorized STL agent-corporations in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

All proposals must be addressed and submitted to the Office of the General Manager, at the 3rd Floor, Main Building, PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, 1102 Quezon City, on or before June 29, 2007, 12:00 noon.

Inquiries may be addressed to the Technical Working Group, Special Projects Department (SPD) at telephone numbers: 781-9876 and 749-3378.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO C. URIARTE
PCSO General Manager

(PDI – June 1, 2 & 3, 2007)

CALBAYOG CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.D. Avelino St., Calbayog City
Western Samar

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Calbayog City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Brand New Service vehicle described hereunder:

Name of Contract	Location	Brief Remarks
One,(1) UNIT DOUBLE CAB PICK-UP BRAND NEW 2.4-3.0 liter fuel injection Turbocharged diesel engine, four wheel Drive (4x4), 5 speed manual Transmission, Air condition, Power steering, 205-235/65-70/ R15-R17 Tire size With aluminum rim, FM/AM-CD Player, complete with Standard tools, spare tire and duplicate key.	Province of Samar City of Calbayog	For use in the Calbayog City Water District Activities requiring transport

Conditions:
1. The price should not exceed ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P 1,200,000.00).
2. 50% down payment, remaining balance 60 days to pay at 0% interest
3. Bidders can offer other mode of payment, provided it is interest free
4. Bid price inclusive of applicable taxes

The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. All particulars relative hereto shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Interested bidders may obtain further information from CCWD/BAC Section at the address stated above from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, Tel. Nos. (055) 2091183. 2091843.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on June 19, 2007, at the CCWD Conference Room, CCWD Administration Building, J.D. Avelino St., Calbayog City, Western Samar.

Bid opening shall be on July 5, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the above stated address.

The CCWD-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) EDITHA C. YRIGAN
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) ARNULFO W. BANZON
General Manager

(PDI–June 1, 2007)

Department of Education
Region III
DIVISION OF ZAMBALES
Iba
Telefax No - 047-811-14-21
Email Address - deped_zambales07@yahoo.com.ph

June 1, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Zambales through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply and Delivery of Various Forms and Office Supplies
Location : DepEd, Division of Zambales
ABC & Funding Source : P3,530,325.40 - (Regular Budget - MOOE)
Delivery Period : Sixty (60) Calendar Days

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	DATE and TIME	VENUE
1. Availability of Bidding Documents	June 4-11, 2007 - 10:00 AM	BAC Secretariat Office
2. Pre-Bid Conference	June 13, 2007 - 10:00 AM	Division Office Conference Room
3. Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 25, 2007 - 10:00 AM	Division Office Conference Room

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, DepED Division of Zambales starting on June 4-11, from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM upon payment of non-refundable amount of Philippine Pesos THIRTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P13,500.00) to the DepED Division of Zambales Cashier.

Bidding will be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Department of Education, Division of Zambales BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) MAY B. ECLAR, Ph.D.
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–June 1, 2007)

VERSUS GUZMAN

Pacquiao fight a handshake away

By Salven Lagumbay
Contributor

PACQUIAO

GUZMAN

PROMOTER BOB Arum yesterday claimed a Manny Pacquiao fight against WBO super-featherweight champion Joan Guzman could be "just a phone call away."

All it takes for the fight to materialize is a call from the two handlers of Guzman—Golden Boy Promotions and Sycuan Ringside Promotions—which co-promote the undefeated Dominican Republic fighter, Arum said.

In an exclusive interview with the website Boxingconfidential, Arum stressed that, although he is locked in a legal battle with GBP, he would be more than willing to work on the project.

"Don King and I co-promoted fights when we were suing each other, so what's the problem?" asked Arum.

Golden Boy and Top Rank, according to a Boxingconfidential report, "may be in sync because a source with knowledge of the situation said Wednesday night that GBP's Richard Schaefer and matchmaker Eric Gomez have plainly said they do not want to hold back Guzman if he can get a big-money date against the Filipino national idol."

"We've got a date and we've got a venue," Arum said. "I spoke to the people at the venue late this morning. We've got Vancouver for October 6."

Both Pacquiao and trainer Freddie Roach have reportedly "greenlighted" Guzman as next in line for the Filipino boxing hero.

The unbeaten New York-based Guzman (27-0, 17 KOs), was originally scheduled to face Australia's Michael Katsidis last May 26, but was injured in training. Nicknamed "El Pequeno (The Small) Tyson," and rated an elite fighter, Guzman, 31, has been calling out Pacquiao for a megafight.

Pacquiao, slated to arrive in the United States today, will confer with Arum on his next fight before flying to New York to receive his Fighter of the Year award and watch younger brother Bobby take on Humberto Soto, who is also being eyed as possible foe for the Pacman.

Arum failed to make it to yesterday's press conference in Los Angeles for the June 9 Pacquiao-Soto fight after his plane suffered engine trouble in Las Vegas.

The affair was held at a restaurant called El Paseo Inn in Old Town Los Angeles, a predominantly Latino-populated area, apparently to connect the fight to the Mexican crowd, reported philboxing.com correspondent Ed de la Vega.

"I respect Soto as a fighter and it's nice to know that he respects me, too," Bobby Pacquiao said. "I hope he really looks past me. Then he will find out why certain Mexican boxers bring out the best in the Pacquiaos."

The June 9 event, dubbed "X-plosive," will feature WBA welter king Miguel Cotto defending his title against Zab Judah with the winner moving on to face the winner of the Antonio Margarito-Paul Williams showdown in a unification duel.

Meanwhile, topnotch American lawyer Judd Burstein, who represented Manny Pacquiao in his $33-million suit against Murad Muhammad, has joined the legal team of the Top Rank rival Golden Boy Promotions.

Lady Pirates make it 5 in row; Lady Stags up

GAMES SUNDAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
1 p.m.—Adamson vs UST
3 p.m.—FEU vs Letran
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

SAN Sebastian's Lou Ann Latigay on the offensive against Far Eastern's Beverly Semana. At left is Ryasabelle Devanadera. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LYCEUM OVERwhelmed Adamson with a splendid all-around game to clinch the first semifinal berth while San Sebastian firmed up its own bid with a tough five-set win over Far Eastern U in the Shakey's V-League at The Arena in San Juan yesterday.

The Lady Pirates went to guest player Josielyn Degorostiza and Sherrilyn Carrillo in offense and relied on Cristina Salak and Beverly Boto in defense to clip the Lady Falcons, 25-11, 25-11, 19-25, 25-15, and extend their win run to five.

That gave the Muralla-based tossers the first of five slots in the semis of the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza.

The SSC spikers took a step closer to joining streaking Lyceum in the next round, where teams will carry their elims records, as they outlasted the Lady Tams, 22-25, 25-15, 20-25; 25-13, 15-6, for their third victory against a lone setback.

Degorostiza and Carrillo combined for 35 hits with the former finishing with 21 points while Salak and Boto teamed up for seven of the team's 10 blocks while scoring 23 points between them.

The loss was Adamson's third in as many starts, the same record of Letran.

San Sebastian, the 2005-2006 NCAA champion, battled back from a 1-2 set deficit by winning the last two to keep solo second in the event organized by Sports Vision and backed by Mikasa, Accel and Jaemark's Restaurant.

Thai Jaroensri Bualee proved unstoppable as SSC's guest player came away with 27 kills in a 31-point output in the one-hour, 45-minute game.

Laurence Ann Latigay backed Bualee with 13 kills for a 15-point performance while Jinni Mondejar and Rysabelle Devanadera tossed in 10 and nine points, respectively for San Sebastian, which lost to La Salle in last conference's finale.

NCA world derby lures tough field

THE FINEST COCKERS FROM THE UNITED States collide against top Filipino cockfighting enthusiasts again in the National Cocker's Association (NCA) World Championship Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit on June 5, 7, and 9.

The strength of the field and the prestige of the tournament make the NCA World Championship Derby the "Olympics of cockfighting," according to the organizers and participants.

The American contingent is headed by veterans Joe Wolcott, Dan Gray, Roy Ogol, Butch Lawson, Larry Whitehead, Bobby Fairchild, Larry Barletta, Eddie Odell, Sonny Borja, Rene Medina, and Butch Lawson.

The NCA stalwarts include Rep. Iggy Arroyo, Gov. Ito Ynares, Patrick Antonio, Rey Briones, Ric de Guzman, Michael Co, Lando Celebre, JV Magsaysay, Ruel Ricafort, Edgar Santos, Chairman Rudy Albano, Pico Berin, Sec. Ronnie Puno, Manny Pacquiao, Jerry Ramos, Tony Lasalla, Benjie Lim, Eric dela Rosa, Bebot Villar, Art Sevilla, Edwin Santos, Jun Santiago, Essie Mallillin, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, Manny Santos, Efren Canlas, Mario Villamor, Jun Jingco, Jet Fernando, Madlangbayan Brothers, Boyet Joson Ellan Nagano, and Ricky Valencia.

The derby trophy, designed by National Artist Eduardo Castrillo, will be awarded to the winner.

P1-M poker in Tagaytay tomorrow

THE THIRD PHILIPPINE POKER TOUR resumes tomorrow at the Casino Filipino Tagaytay in Tagaytay City.

The satellite (qualifying) tournament provides non-wager poker aficionados an opportunity to land berths in the grand finals of the PPT Million-Peso Hold-em Championship, slated July 7-8. Each seat is worth P33,000 in tournament and registration fees.

PPT chair Rey Gamboa said the tour aims to identify and develop local talents in the countryside and promote poker as a mind game.

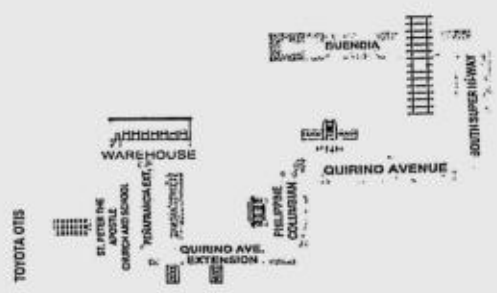
Other qualifying tournaments are ongoing at the San Mig Alabang Town Center every Wednesdays and Fridays, and at Elbow Room at MetroWalk in Pasig City every Thursday.

For details, visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call the PPT secretariat at 812-0153.

PSBank
THE GRAND GARAGE
AUCTION SALE
ALL UNITS MUST GO !!!
Pre Auction: May 26 to June 1, 2007
Auction day: June 2, 2007 at 1:00pm
AS MUCH AS 30% DISCOUNT as of June 1,2007
Venue: Paco - Penafrancia Ext. Paco, Manila
Cebu - HYG Arcade Subangdaku, Mandaue City

	MAKE/MODEL	PLATE No.	REGULAR PRICE	AUCTION PRICE	KNOCK OUT PRICE
	MANILA				
	CHEVROLET				
1	05 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS A/T	ZAE-220	520,000	468,000	491,400
2	04 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS M/T	XRG-188	360,000	306,000	336,600
4	05 CHEVROLET VENTURE A/T	XTD-821	920,000	690,000	759,000
5	05 CHEVROLET OPTRA LT A/T	XTD-978	600,000	450,000	495,000
6	05 CHEVROLET OPTRA LT A/T	ZAZ-748	550,000	412,500	453,750
7	04 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS A/T	XRT-148	360,000	324,000	340,200
	FORD				
9	05 FORD FOCUS A/T	ZDB-114	750,000	675,000	708,750
10	05 FORD LYNX GSI A/T	XRV-321	450,000	405,000	425,250
11	05 FORD LYNX GSI M/T	XTP-565	400,000	340,000	374,000
13	04 FORD LYNX LSI M/T	XMZ-223	360,000	270,000	297,000
14	03 FORD EXPLORER A/T	XMG-169	680,000	510,000	561,000
	HYUNDAI				
18	05 HYUNDAI MATRIX M/T	ZAV-998	400,000	340,000	374,000
19	04 HYUNDAI MATRIX GL M/T	RBD-268	380,000	342,000	359,100
	KIA				
23	06 KIA KC2700 PANORAMIC M/T	VDV-649	580,000	522,000	548,100
24	05 KIA PICANTO A/T	VCM-537	320,000	288,000	302,400
26	05 KIA KC2700 PANORAMIC M/T	ZAF-570	614,400	457,500	503,250
	MITSUBISHI				
28	05 MITSUBISHI PAJERO GLS A/T	XSW-890	2,100,000	1,785,000	1,963,500
29	04 MITSUBISHI L400 SPACEGEAR M/T	RBE-143	828,000	525,000	577,500
31	04 MITSUBISHI L400 SPACEGEAR A/T	VCU-445	550,000	412,500	453,750
39	03 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GS GAS A/T	XLV-131	500,000	450,000	472,500
42	02 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX GAS M/T	XFW-982	420,000	315,000	346,500
43	02 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX GAS M/T	XGR-713	350,000	262,500	288,750
49	05 MITSUBISHI L300 VV DSL M/T	RDG-708	520,000	442,000	486,200
	NISSAN				
54	06 NISSAN CEFIRO 300 EX A/T	ZDY-332	1,350,000	1,147,500	1,262,250
55	06 NISSAN SENTRA GS A/T	ZEP-835	600,000	540,000	567,000
56	06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX A/T	ZDU-206	520,000	468,000	491,400
58	06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	ZDV-286	600,000	450,000	495,000
59	05 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	XTF-399	420,000	357,000	392,700
61	05 NISSAN SENTRA GS A/T	XTV-776	520,000	390,000	429,000
62	05 NISSAN SENTRA GS A/T	XRM-372	480,000	408,000	448,800
63	05 NISSAN SENTRA GT A/T	XTV-598	550,000	412,500	453,750
64	05 NISSAN SENTRA GT A/T	ZAH-457	590,000	442,500	486,750
67	04 NISSAN SENTRA GT A/T	XKE-499	520,000	390,000	429,000
77	02 NISSAN SERENA QRVU GAS M/T	XJJ-150	440,000	330,000	363,000
79	05 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	XTR-723	630,000	535,500	589,050
81	05 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	ZCD-921	850,000	722,500	794,750
82	04 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	XND-195	750,000	562,500	618,750
83	04 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	XRW-839	750,000	637,500	701,250
84	04 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	XNZ-138	720,000	540,000	594,000
	OPEL				
85	03 OPEL ASTRA WAGON A/T	XHL-819	370,000	277,500	305,250
86	00 OPEL ASTRA WAGON A/T	WMK-827	280,000	210,000	231,000
	SUZUKI				
87	05 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA M/T	ZAW-918	900,000	675,000	742,500
88	06 SUZUKI APV GLX A/T	ZEA-383	620,000	527,000	579,700
	TOYOTA				
90	97 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER PRADO A/T	LTM-707	900,000	765,000	841,500
91	05 TOYOTA INNOVA G GAS A/T	ZBM-117	785,000	667,250	733,975
93	05 TOYOTA INNOVA E DSL M/T	ZAD-644	720,000	648,000	680,400
95	05 TOYOTA INNOVA J DSL A/T	ZAY-379	680,000	578,000	635,800
96	05 TOYOTA REVO DLX GAS M/T	KDB-523	450,000	337,500	371,250
98	03 TOYOTA REVO VX200 M/T	XKV-993	530,000	367,500	404,250
100	01 TOYOTA REVO SR GAS M/T	WPU-509	365,000	328,500	344,925
108	04 TOYOTA HI-LUX DSL M/T	XPE-789	500,000	450,000	472,500
109	04 TOYOTA REVO DLX DSL M/T	XMX-617	440,000	374,000	411,400
110	05 TOYOTA HI-ACE DSL M/T	ZBG-584	950,000	807,500	888,250

	MAKE/MODEL	PLATE No.	REGULAR PRICE	AUCTION PRICE	KNOCK OUT PRICE
	CEBU				
	FORD				
1	04 FORD ESCAPE XLS M/T	YAG-356	680,000	578,000	635,800
	HYUNDAI				
3	05 HYUNDAI STAREX GRX CRDI A/T	XSF-244	900,000	675,000	742,500
5	05 HYUNDAI MATRIX M/T	FFM-968	420,000	378,000	396,900
6	04 HYUNDAI MATRIX GL A/T	FFB-757	380,000	285,000	313,500
	ISUZU				
7	04 ISUZU D-MAX M/T	XMU-239	750,000	641,750	705,925
	KIA				
8	04 KIA KC2700 PANORAMIC M/T	FFL-497	340,000	255,000	280,500
9	05 KIA CARNIVAL SEDONA M/T	KCP-818	575,000	431,250	474,375
	MITSUBISHI				
10	02 MITSUBISHI L200 STRADA DSL M/T	EEZ-544	610,000	457,500	503,250
	NISSAN				
11	05 NISSAN X-TRAIL 4X2 A/T	YCD-410	730,000	620,500	682,550
13	06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	FFW-216	600,000	450,000	495,000
15	05 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	FFU-247	605,000	514,250	565,675
16	04 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL A/T	XSL-937	600,000	450,000	495,000
17	04 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	TEMP 0604	620,000	465,000	511,500
18	03 NISSAN TERRANO 4X4 DSL M/T	FFK-808	800,000	600,000	660,000
	SUZUKI				
19	06 SUZUKI APV GL M/T	NO PLATE	630,000	535,500	589,050
20	05 SUZUKI APV GLX A/T	FFN-883	600,000	450,000	495,000
	TOYOTA				
22	96 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX DSL M/T	HVF-223	100,000	85,000	93,500



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AUCTION GUIDELINES

1. Pre-Auction/ Knockout Rules.
   a. Auctioneer has the right to award units to buyers who bid at knockout prices, prior to auction date, on a first-to-bid priority basis.
   b. For pre-awarded units, buyers must comply with the payment requirements within the same day that the unit was awarded.
   c. Payment Mode: P 10,000 cash or Manager's Check per unit.
2. Auction Proper Rules
   a. **Inventory List.** Units which are not pre-sold on knockout basis
   b. **Participants.** Open to the public except for employees of PSBank and their relatives to the first degree.
   c. **Registration.** Bidders must register with the auctioneer before they can participate.
   d. **Show Money** : P 10,000 Cash or Manager's Check payable to PSBank.
   e. **To Bid.** Bidders will write their bids on bid sheets attached to every vehicle. Bidders are allowed to adjust their bids in competition with other bidders within the auction hours.
   f. **To Win.** The bidder who has the highest bid appearing on the bid sheet will be declared the winner. If the winner cancels his bid, the next highest bidder will be declared the substitute winner.
   g. **Payment Mode.** Cash or in-house financing
   h. **Upfront Payment.** P 10,000 cash or Manager's Check per unit.
   i. Decision of the auctioneer is final.

SPORTS

Shutout: US men go 0-9

PARIS—ROBBY GINEPRI HEARD THE NEWS AT BREAKFAST BEFORE heading out to play Wednesday: He was the last US man in the French Open. By early afternoon, he was gone, too, making Americans 0-9 in the first round, the country's worst showing at Roland Garros in at least 40 years. *AP*

Spurs rap Jazz, reach finals

NEW YORK—THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS ADVANCED TO THE NBA finals with a crushing 109-84 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday.

Tim Duncan and Tony Parker each scored 21 points, helping the Spurs clinch the Western Conference series 4-1 and book a place in the NBA finals for the third time in five seasons.

The Spurs will play either the Detroit Pistons or the Cleveland Cavaliers in the finals, which start on June 7 in San Antonio. The Pistons and Cavaliers are tied 2-2 in the Eastern Conference finals.

"Last year we had a tough finish. To come back this year, to put the team back together, to have a healthy year myself and to go through three really, really good teams. It's great to get back here." San Antonio was leading Utah 16-11 in the first period when it embarked on a streak that set the tone for the game.

Parker scored seven consecutive points to push the advantage to 23-11 and Duncan dunked on an alley-oop. Bruce Bowen connected on a three-pointer before Parker drove for another basket and in less than three minutes the Spurs had a 19-point lead.

"Tonight we played great, everybody from the starting five, from the bench, everybody made shots," Parker told reporters.

"I think we won that game in the first quarter, and we kept the lead the whole game." The Spurs, who have defeated the Jazz 19 consecutive times in San Antonio, led 34-15 after the first quarter and 55-39 at the half. That advantage grew to 83-56 going into the fourth.

Andrei Kirilenko led the Jazz with 13 points. Deron Williams, who played with a sprained left foot, and Matt Harpring had 11 each. Carlos Boozer was held to nine points and 12 rebounds.

Guard Derek Fisher missed the first half while returning from New York where his daughter is undergoing treatment for an eye condition. He was 0-3 from the floor.

The finals will be the Spurs' fourth appearance in nine seasons.

They won the NBA title in 1999, 2003 and 2005, but lost in the second round of the 2004 playoffs and the Western Conference semifinals in 2006.

They have seven days to prepare for another tilt at the title. *Reuters*

NBA on TV Today
8 a.m.—Cleveland vs Detroit

TIM Duncan (21) fights for a rebound with Carlos Boozer in Game 5. REUTERS

Kobe backs off trade threat

LOS ANGELES—BELIEVING HE had been insulted and misled, Kobe Bryant asked the Los Angles Lakers for a trade on Wednesday and insisted nothing could change his mind. Then something did. He spoke with coach Phil Jackson and backed off his request. "I don't want to go anywhere, this is my team," Bryant told KLAC radio. "I love it here. I called Phil, man, he and I talked, it was an emotional conversation, but he just said, 'You know what, Kobe? Let us try to figure this thing out.' "Phil is a guy I lean on a lot." Three hours earlier, in an interview with ESPN radio, Bryant said: "I would like to be traded, yeah." *AP*

Venus' smashing serve keys win; Roger advances

PARIS—VENUS WILLIAMS UNleashed the fastest serve by a woman at a grand slam as the American kept the Stars and Stripes fluttering at the French Open on Wednesday.

Just hours after Robby Ginepri's 6-4 1-6 5-7 6-4 6-2 defeat by Argentina's Diego Hartfield condemned the US men to their worst showing at Roland Garros in at least 40 years, Williams lit up a dank court one with a 206 kph thunderbolt.

The milestone, a shade slower than Brenda Schultz-McCarthy's overall record of 209 kph hit in qualifying in Cincinnati last July, made up for an otherwise unimpressive 6-1 7-6 second-round victory over fellow American Ashley Harkleroad.

"I loved it. I lost my focus a little bit because I saw the 206," said Williams, who had let slip a 5-1 lead in the second set.

"I was so excited because I broke my record."

The five-time slam champion cannot afford such lapses in the next round as she will be up against inform Serbian fourth seed Jelena Jankovic.

The last of nine US male competitors to fall in Paris, Ginepri's exit also meant that for the first time in 34 years no American men reached the second round of one of the four majors.

World number ones Roger Federer and Justine Henin did not let the now familiar sight of umbrellas peppered across the stands distract their title charge.

Federer withstood a late fightback from plucky French wildcard Thierry Ascione for a 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 victory and Henin steamrollered Austrian Tamira Paszek, 7-5, 6-1.

Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo began a 13th tilt at winning her home grand slam with a 6-0 7-5 triumph over American Laura Granville.

Maria Sharapova showed there was no room for sentiment when she led a batch of Russians into the second round.

Playing under menacing clouds, and in a rush to get off court before the heavens opened again, the second seed was in unforgiving mood as local darling Emilie Loit hobbled around with a thigh strain.

Sharapova made light of her own patched-up shoulder as she powered to a 6-3, 7-6 victory. She was joined in the last 64 by 2006 runner-up Svetlana Kuznetsova and ninth seed Anna Chakvetadze.

Kuznetsova avenged one of the most painful defeats of her career when she blew fellow Russian Ekaterina Bychkova off court, 6-0, 6-3.

The third seed was humiliated by Bychkova at the 2005 US Open when she became the first defending champion to lose in the opening round. *Reuters*

SPILL-MARRED RACES

Jao, Buncio share Superbikes honors

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOLET JAO of Shell Advance-Kawasaki came back from two spills to share the limelight with Maico Buncio of Yamaha in the recent second leg of the 2007 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario town.

Escaping with minor bruises and a hurting back after he was hit by Dannie Daquigan in the Underbone 125cc Sports Production class, Jao later failed to finish in the first Expert race in the morning when his bike's chain snapped.

But he was unstoppable in the afternoon race where he won the 10-lap event in 17 minutes 41.648 seconds, 16.043 secs ahead of Buncio, who took the morning run in 17:56.858.

Rod Chua, who finished second, 5.061 secs behind Buncio in Race 1, placed third in the afternoon, followed by David Pua and Jaime Barcial. Pua was third in the morning.

Jao was hit by Daquigan just as he stopped to check his engine, which conked out at the start of the 125cc event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

The impact sent Jao flying some 15 feet into the air before he fell flat on his back on the asphalt pavement. Though he escaped serious injury, it took a while for him and Daquigan to get up and rejoin the race.

Expecting a smooth run in the Superbike race against motocross champ Glenn Aguilar, Jao quickly pulled away in the first two laps only to quit when his bike's chain gave way.

Aguilar debuted with an impressive sweep of the Novice division and proved himself among the Expert riders in the combined race as he finished second overall, just 4.569 secs behind Buncio in Race 3 and third in Race 4.

The fast-rising Gherry Chua finished second behind Aguilar in both Novice races. Arnel Agpoon took third place in Race 3 while Erwin Siep claimed third place in the afternoon race.

Sharing the day's spotlight was Geoffrey Aguisanda who swept the 400cc races against Simon Salenda.

JOLET Jao (right) tries to stand up after being bumped by Dannie Daquigan who is still writhing in pain in the grass, at left. Jao later recovered to rule Race 4.

Ford-Nomads, Rudy Project-DLSU top beach soccer at Playa Calatagan

TEAM FORD-NOMADS FC. TRIMMED Kaya FC, 5-2, on Saturday to bag the men's Open crown in the 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational tournament at Playa Calatagan in Calatagan, Batangas.

Nomads, made up of six expatriates led by top scorer and MVP Mick Denison, showed up collegiate and alumni club sides in the tournament which drew 26 men's and ladies' teams.

Team Rudy Project-La Salle A ruled the ladies' Open division at the expense of Sunday INQUIRER-Alabang Grins Jrs., 5-3.

Nike-DLSU B and Rexona-Laguna FC settled for third place in the men's and women's Open classes, respectively.

Samantha Bermudez walked away with the special prize, an overnight weekend stay in Punta Fuego, as the tournament's top scorer with 12 goals.

Rudy Project-DLSU A's Stephanie Pheasant ran away with the MVP crown in ladies' play, with Haya Ibarra (ladies) and Jonathan Thorpe (men) clinching the best goalkeeper awards.

Rudy Project held the event as part of its Extreme Summer 2007 activities. Rudy Project Philippines VP Gabriele Boschi helped Playa Calatagan project manager Martin Caudal award the prizes in the day-long event watched by about 800 beach football enthusiasts.

Landco Pacific's Playa Calatagan co-presented the event with Smart Communications, Inc. Major sponsors included Nestea, Axe, Ford and Rush fitness water. Minor sponsors were Nike, Royal Elastics and GNC.

ACTION in the men's final match between Team Ford-Nomads FC and Kaya FC in the 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational.

Leading Warriors, Archers collide today

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
12 noon—National U vs Univ. of Phils.
2 p.m.—Jose Rizal U vs Santo Tomas
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Univ. of East
6 p.m.—San Beda vs. Phil. Christian U

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST SHOOTS for a six-game sweep against La Salle today at the close of the eliminations of the Filoil Flying V Pre-Season Invitational Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

The Warriors of Dindo Pumaren are slightly favored over the Archers of elder brother Franz in the 4 p.m. match.

It will be National University against University of the Philippines at noon, Jose Rizal against Santo Tomas at 2 and San Beda against Philippine Christian University at 6.

The Group A frontrunner Warriors have the edge in offense as they average 88.6 points per game in the tournament against the 78.7 ppg of the Archers, who are looking to improve their leading card in Group B to 6-1.

UE will lean on veteran Marcy Arellano, Narciso Llagas and Mark Borboran with help from Mark Famplume and 3-point artist James Martinez.

Tyrone Tang is expected to lead La Salle along with Rico Maierhofer and Cholo Villanueva.

Tickets are available at TicketNet or at the gate. *Inquirer Sports Staff*

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Execs want P26.5-B IT scheme junked /B3

■ 20 local, foreign firms vie for exploration deals /B4

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BUSINESS

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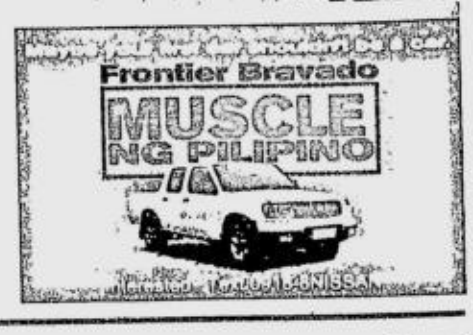


Banks to be given freer investment hand

BSP to initiate new wave of financial liberalization

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS WILL SOON INITIATE measures that will boost the banking system's ability to cope with the challenges and opportunities opened up by the increase in foreign exchange flows.

The measures are contained in a framework designed to liberalize the use of hedging mechanisms to "provide banks with expanded opportunities for financial risk management and investment diversification."

Monetary authorities have been easing restrictions on foreign exchange trading and beefing up its instruments to mop up liquidity in the system.

Banks have already received a draft circular that outlined the framework. Their suggestions and comments on the draft circular would then be taken up by the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board in its subsequent meetings.

The draft circular, a copy of which was secured by the INQUIRER, indicated that the banks would receive a freer hand in undertaking derivative activities, whether as end-users, brokers or dealers of sophisticated financial instruments.

Easing restrictions on derivatives, a BSP official explained, would be another way of dismantling barriers to the outward flow of capital since financial institutions would be more confident in exploring fresh investment opportunities once they are equipped with a wide array of hedging tools.

"(The proposed framework) will allow banks, or other financial participants, to hedge themselves actively and to manage risk positions actively," a top banker said in an interview. "They will be more confident to expand their business because their interest rate or foreign exposure can be managed actively."

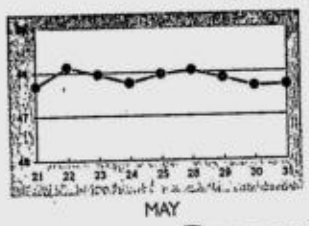
A derivative is broadly defined as a financial instrument that primarily derives its value from the performance of an underlying variable. Its value changes in response to the change in the underlying commodity or index such as interest rate, price of a financial asset, foreign exchange rate, indices of financial asset prices, or credit rating or credit index.

Financial derivative activities also include transactions in cash instruments with embedded derivatives that reshape the risk-return pattern, such as credit-linked notes and other structured products.

BANKS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.30 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 31, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 2.24% higher

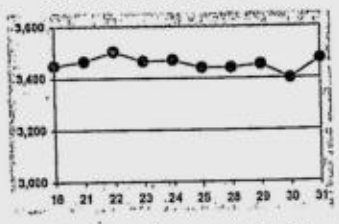
SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 2.24 percent higher on broad-based buying as investors cheered stronger than expected economic growth figures, dealers said.

The composite index added 76.12 points to 3,474.67, the day's high, off a low of 3,398.55. The broader all-share index gained 43 points or 1.97 percent to 2,222.59.

Gainers led losers 111 to six, while 46 stocks ended flat. A total of 5.2 billion shares worth P7

SHARES/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Political risks seen to weigh heavily on long-term growth prospects

By Michelle V. Remo

BUSINESSES AT PRESENT MAY BE shrugging off election-related violence and allegations of massive cheating in the South at the moment, but political risks may weigh heavily on the country's growth prospects in the long term, according to a top government official.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said that the country was well on its way to meet the government's economic growth target of between 6.1 and 6.7 percent this year, especially after it performed well in the first quarter, with gross domestic product rising 6.9 percent.

Neri, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said that investors did not really mind what's happening in the political front, and were so far only concerned with macroeconomic fundamentals. But within-target GDP growth might not be sustained should political risks remain unresolved, Neri warned.

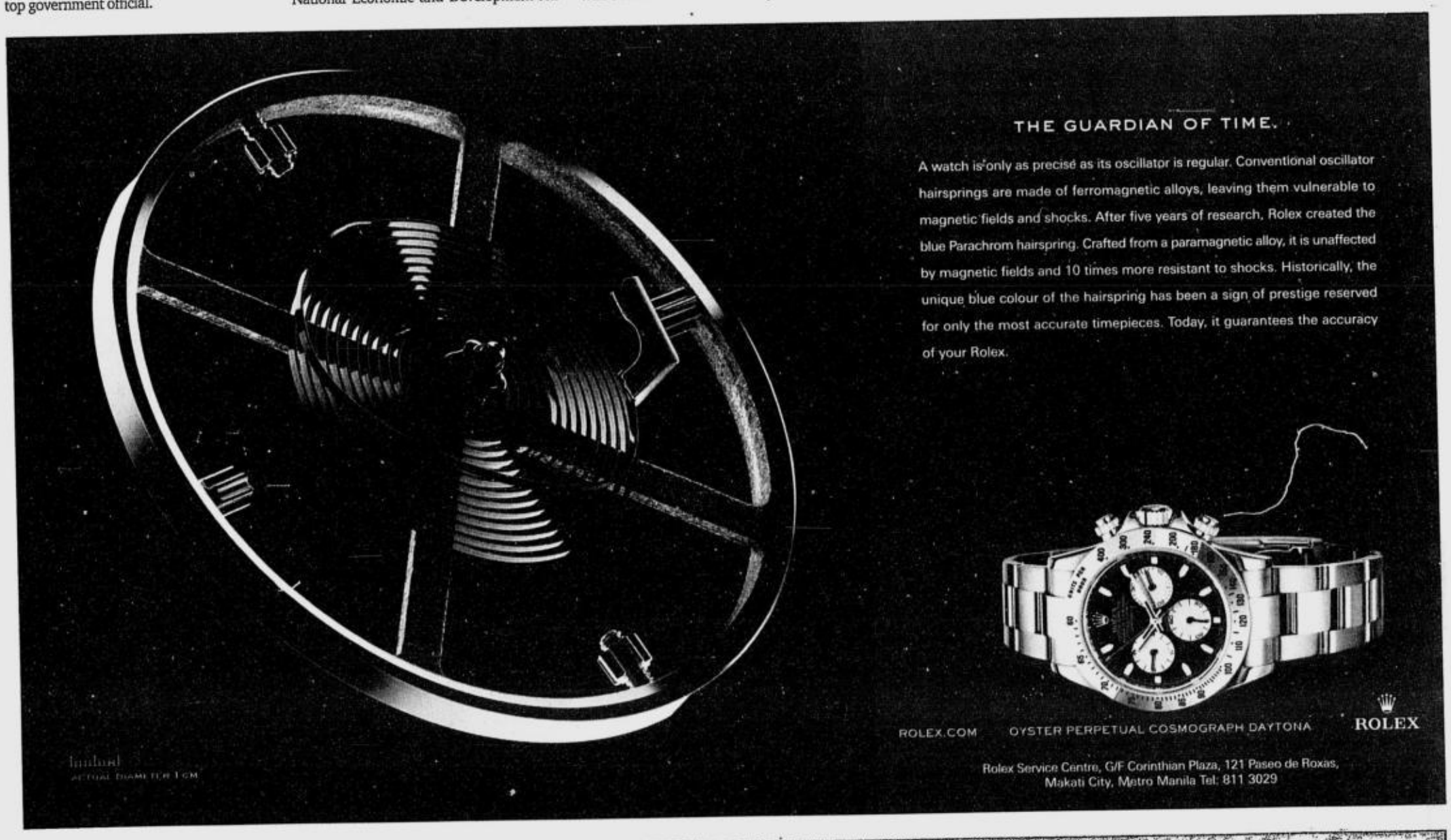
"Our businessmen are able to put a firewall between economics and politics at the moment," Neri said in a press conference on the country's first-quarter GDP growth held yesterday in Makati City. "But in the long run, the effects of political risks on the economy could be worrisome."

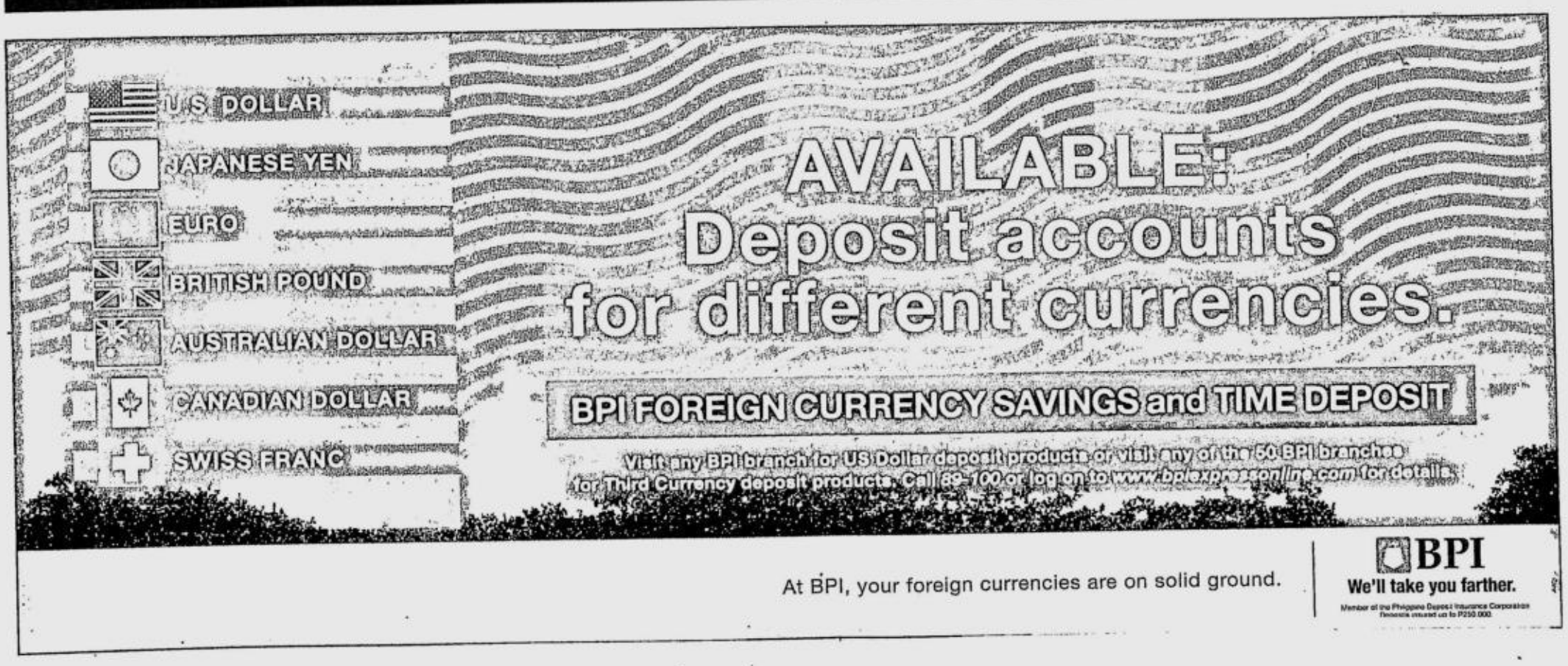
Neri earlier expressed concern over reports on election-related violence that took the lives of innocent poll watchers, as well as allegations of fraud in the canvassing, saying it could adversely affect social trust in the country's political institutions.

"Our political institutions are still rather primitive and almost tribal, with a lot of political killings," he commented.

"We need to have social trust to achieve a higher economic growth in the future. Social trust and economic growth has a corre-

POLITICAL/ B3





PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 31, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.1	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	44,400
71	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	65.5	67	65.5	67	1,525,900
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	69.5	68	69	13,557,300
935	630	China Banking Corp.	900	900	900	900	1,290
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	1,100,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	65	66	65	66	3,258,300
56.5	30.5	Philippine National Bank	54	54.5	54	54	236,300
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	50	50	50	50	1,400
39.57	13.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	31	31.5	30.5	31	512,700
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	83	83.5	82.5	82.5	246,800
66	40.55	Union Bank of the Philippines	64.5	64.5	61.5	64	138,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
0.85	0.6	Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
7.7	1.5	CitiseaOnline.com Inc.	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.2	959,000
6.5	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000
0.8	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.35	12,633,000
2.5	0.97	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.4	91,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	585	595	585	590	1,290
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	860
1.94	1.08	Vantage Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	1,318,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
63.5	41	First Gen Corp.	59.5	60.5	59.5	60.5	1,047,100
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	78	79	78	78.5	1,054,600
12.75	6.7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12.5	7,429,000
96	13.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	91	94	91	94	500,700
97	20.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	92.5	94.5	92.5	94	3,674,500
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.9	6.3	5.8	6.2	80,012,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	3,095,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	540,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	1,755,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.2	2.2	329,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	10,000
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	55	55.5	54.5	55.5	988,300
25	16	Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	22	22	22	22	5,100
1.62	0.69	RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	700,000
4.05	2.3	Roxas Holdings	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	100,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	65.5	66.5	65.5	66	87,300
88	68.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	76.5	76.5	76	76.5	1,262,900
0.51	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	400,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	15.75	16	15.5	16	9,762,400
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.7	1.07	EEI Corp.	5.2	5.7	5.2	5.7	2,691,000
4.5	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	40,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	5,934,000
2	0.745	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.88	1.82	1.88	12,068,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	1,522,000
0.82	0.5	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	50,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.43	0.06	Pump Research Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.34	19,540,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.7	3.85	3.7	3.85	243,000
0.095	0.022	AJD net Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.095	0.085	0.09	231,900,000
1.14	0.17	APC Group Inc.	1.02	1.06	1	1.04	80,060,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	16,000,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	9	9.1	9	9.1	4,350,000
0.017	0.0065	Alcom Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	155,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.4	2,610,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	350,000
2.34	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.24	2.28	2.24	2.28	2,857,000
12.5	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	2	2.5	2	2.5	64,000
566.67	272.92	Ayala Corp.	535	535	520	530	391,950
12.17	6.88	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12	12	12	12	200
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.55	361,000
14.75	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.6	4.75	4.6	4.7	33,455,000
9.4	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.9	9.4	8.9	9.4	4,449,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	6	5.5	6	5,498,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	100,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12	12	12	83,900
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.63	0.5	0.62	3,560,000
18	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	16.5	18	16	17	4,884,600
4.85	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.55	3,621,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	26,000
1.26	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	60,000
0.63	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.57	0.62	0.57	0.61	18,600,000
1.8	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
445	205	SM Investments Corp.	400	410	400	407.5	732,370
2.2	0.6	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	66,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.68	54,720,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.67	310,000
1.56	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.4	176,000
0.74	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	4,780,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.86	1.94	3,685,000
16	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	26,608,800
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	6,946,000
4.5	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.95	1,602,000
4.5	1.42	City and Land Developers Inc.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	12,000
0.64	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.59	0.64	0.59	0.64	11,870,000
0.6	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	9,530,000
3.1	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	74,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	7,410,000
0.29	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	32,630,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.92	0.95	0.91	0.95	15,510,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.94	1.88	1.92	112,224,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	100,400,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. "B"	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	182,900,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	2,240,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.75	1,610,000
4.25	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	32,958,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.35	4.4	466,000
0.26	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.22	0.23	17,880,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.59	0.62	5,810,000
4.1	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.7	3.85	3.7	3.85	162,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	19.5	20.25	19.5	20	5,595,400
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	4.7	4.75	4.7	4.75	812,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	13	13	12.25	12.25	14,623,100
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	660,000
0.33	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.31	36,420,000
1.74	0.3	Zeppelin Realty Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.3	2,119,000
		MEDIA					
32	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	188,200
1.14	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	57,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.12	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.56	3,454,000
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,345.00	1,365.00	1,340.00	1,360.00	149,870
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,520.00	2,560.00	2,520.00	2,555.00	262,260
7.9	3.1	Philippine Telegraph Corp.	6.8	7.1	6.8	7	9,858,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	11,000,000
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.7	52,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.7	704,000
0.0875	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	87,600,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.029	5,300,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	105,000
0.0725	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.0625	0.0725	0.0625	0.07	119,900,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	138,000
0.06	0.027	Philweb Corp.	0.05	0.0575	0.05	0.0575	1,853,700,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.06	2.12	2.04	2.1	560,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	100,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	18,000
32	12.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	1,674,900
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.7	3.85	3.7	3.85	1,297,000
5	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.6	15,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	1,000
0.85	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.64	0.85	0.64	0.82	37,660,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.96	10,720,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	2,000
966.67	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	805	805	805	805	3,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	100,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7	2.75	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000
41	6.6	JTH Davao Holdings Inc.	25	25	25	25	1,000
5.2	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.1	4.9	5	2,945,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.5	1,415,000
30	9.5	Pavys Inc.	26	26.5	26	26	511,100
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	490,400,000
7.6	2.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	4,605,000
7.7	2.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	2,926,000
21.25	5.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	18.25	18.75	17.75	18.5	5,632,200
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.5	13	12.25	13	863,400
4	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.9	17,000
2.5	0.0602	Geograco Resources Philippines Inc.	2.36	2.42	2.34	2.4	59,787,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,340,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	3,400,000
0.038	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	141,400,000
0.041	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.037	0.039	0.037	0.038	72,400,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	172,900,000
6.3	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	6	6.1	6	6.1	14,475,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	89,300
1.2	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.06	3,398,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	5,261,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	3,890,000
0.021	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	168,500,000
0.022	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	11,000,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10,000
0.024	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	505,600,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

May 31, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.744269	1.000000	46.2690
Japan	Yen	0.006118	0.008220	0.3803
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470750	1.976100	91.4322
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095365	0.128133	5.9286
Switzerland	Franc	0.607567	0.816327	37.7706
Canada	Dollar	0.693247	0.931446	43.0971
Singapore	Dollar	0.486705	0.653937	30.2570
Australia	Dollar	0.611510	0.821625	38.0158
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.974398	2.652801	122.7424
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198467	0.266660	12.3381
Brunei	Dollar	0.485119	0.651806	30.1584
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000113	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.022775	0.030600	1.4158
UAE	Dirham	0.202776	0.272450	12.6060
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.343600	62.1670
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.001075	0.0497
China	Yuan**	0.097327	0.130769	6.0506
Argentina	Peso	0.241607	0.324623	15.0200
Brazil	Real	0.381500	0.512584	23.7167
Denmark	Kroner	0.134226	0.180346	8.3444
India	Rupee	0.018363	0.024673	1.1416
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218903	0.294118	13.6085
Mexico	New Peso	0.069260	0.093058	4.3057
New Zealand	Dollar	0.542866	0.729395	33.7484
Norway	Kroner	0.122722	0.164889	7.6292
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012255	0.016466	0.7619
South Africa	Rand	0.103630	0.139237	6.4424
Sweden	Kroner	0.107370	0.144263	6.6749
Syria	Pound	0.014338	0.019264	0.8913
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022571	0.030326	1.4032

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 30, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of May 30, 200

Banks to be given freer ...

From page B1

Under the proposed circular, universal and commercial banks will automatically be allowed to engage in cross-currency forwards and swaps for up to one year. They will likewise be allowed to handle peso interest rate swaps and forward rate arrangements with a tenor of five years or less. At present, they are required to seek Monetary Board approval for interest rate swaps exceeding one year in tenor.

Banks may also be allowed to invest in any principal-protected structured product with embedded derivatives that may offer opportunity for higher yield, provided that the maximum contractual maturity shall be five years. However, the total carrying value of all investments in structured products shall not exceed 100 percent of the bank's qualifying tier 1 or core capital.

For investments in structured products under the Foreign Currency Deposit Unit (FCDU), total carrying value of structured products as defined shall also not exceed 40 percent of the total FCDU investment portfolio.

Currency swaps refer to an arrangement in which two parties exchange cash flows with differing currencies, at specified exchange and/or interest rate and at an agreed-upon interval.

Interest rate swaps refer to an agreement in which the parties agree to exchange fixed for floating interest cash flows on a principal amount at certain times in the future, according to an agreed-upon formula.

Forward foreign exchange contracts refer to contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of foreign currency at a specified exchange rate that is settled at a specified future date.

Interest rate forwards refer to an agreement in which the rate to be paid or received on a specific obligation for a set period of time is determined at contract initiation.

Meanwhile, a structured product refers to a financial instrument where the total return is a function of one or more underlying indices, such as interest rates, equities and exchange rates.

Thrift banks, rural banks and cooperative banks may similarly engage in derivatives transactions solely as end-user.

But, their transactions shall only be with BSP-authorized dealers and brokers, and they must have complied with prescribed capital for market risk.

The draft circular added that trust departments of banks may engage in derivatives activities strictly as end-users on behalf of a trustor.

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Execs want ₱26.5-B IT scheme junked

By Daxim L. Lucas

A GROUP OF BUSINESS LEADERS ADVOcating education has called on the government to stop a Department of Education plan to link all public schools nationwide via a P26.5-billion computer network system, saying the money would be best spent on other priorities.

According to the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd), the money to fund for DepEd's so-called Cyber Education Project would be more effective if used to upgrade teachers' skills, buy more textbooks and construct more classrooms.

"There are so many shortfalls in education that the money would be better spent elsewhere," PBEd founding director Chito B. Salazar said in an interview.

The DepEd's scheme calls for a nationwide network that would broadcast educational courses and live instruction sessions via satellite- and Internet-based facilities.

A brainchild of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, its stated aim is to "to improve the delivery of and access to quality basic education services."

The Cyber Education Project—which costs approximately $575 million at present exchange rates—was approved recently by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Salazar pointed out that the amount to be spent for the Cyber Education Project was enough to pay for master's degree scholarships of 260,000 teachers—half of the DepEd's roster of instructors.

"This is also twice the P13.5 billion needed to implement free universal pre-school education nationwide," he said.

Yesterday, PBEd and the Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc. (FWWPPI) released a statement viewing "with deep concern" government's decision to proceed with the project that would be funded largely through a loan from the People's Republic of China.

"As its partner in making quality education for all Filipino children a reality, we call on government to withdraw this project and instead put the financial resources where they are needed more and where they can make a bigger difference," the group said.

Some prominent members of PBEd include Magdaleno B. Albarracin Jr., Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Jose L. Cuisia Jr. and Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

"While we welcome more investment into the ailing Philippine education system, we question the wisdom of the chosen input considering the huge amount of funds involved," it said.

"It is, after all, our firm belief that a key lever for reversing the education crisis is not only the provision of more funds but also how such funds shall be converted into effective inputs."

Tan to list more firms

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LUCIO TAN, LISTED AS ONE OF the richest men in the world by Forbes magazine, is now willing to "share his profits" by taking some of his companies public.

"Everything will go public in five years. We are not selfish. We want everybody to have (a share)," Tan said in a briefing yesterday after the stockholders' meeting of Tanduay Holdings Inc.

Even his lucrative tobacco and brewery businesses are included in the listing plan.

Tan said the move was also prompted by a need to raise new money to finance the further expansion of some of the companies in his empire.

The Lucio Tan Group of Companies is one of the country's largest conglomerates with more than 30 companies and affiliates in 10 business sectors.

Tan's companies already traded on the exchange include Philippine National Bank, Allied Bank, Tanduay Holdings and Eton Properties.

Companies that are still privately owned by the Tan Group are Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery Inc., Century Park Hotel, Air Philippines and University of the East.

Tan's son and ABI chief operating officer Michael Tan, meanwhile, said ABI had seen significant growth in its soft drinks business with the Virgin Cola brand.

Lucio Tan also said yesterday that he was "very interested" in the 20-percent stake that government will sell in rival San Miguel Corp., but that he had "no money."

Tan, whose net worth in 2006 was pegged at $2.3 billion, was listed as the second richest man in the Philippines behind mall tycoon Henry Sy, Sr.

Debt-to-GDP ratio in '07 seen hitting 58.3%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO is projected to further improve to 58.3 percent this year, moving closer to the 50 percent that the international financial community considers "sustainable."

This is based on the assumption that the national government debt this year will hit P3.925 trillion and gross domestic product (GDP) will reach P6.576 trillion.

Last year, the debt-to-GDP ratio improved to 64.2 percent after reaching 71.8 percent the previous year.

The debt-to-GDP ratio is one of the most closely watched economic indicators as it measures the government's ability to cover its debt.

At the expected level this year, the government will have 58.3 centavos in debt for every P1 of economic output.

With the expected improvement in the ratio this year, the government economic managers see the economic output rising faster than debt.

Finance officials said the government would continue to borrow this year because there was still not enough money generated internally to cover expenses.

Records show that the debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 64.9 percent in 2001, and rose to 71.1 percent in 2002, 78 percent in 2003, 78.8 percent in 2004 and 71.8 percent in 2005.

Political risks . . .

From page B1

lation in the long run."

Neri added that to leave the political climate the way it is now would only further erode social trust and later on take its toll on investments.

Although the economy expanded faster than expected in the first quarter, Neri said investments in the Philippines were still far from the average in neighboring countries.

Neri said investments-to-GDP ratio in the Philippines still only stood at 15 percent, lagging behind the 25-percent average in the region.

He said the government should aim to increase the amount of investments entering the Philippines by an amount that would make it at par with neighboring countries.

He said economic growth should be largely based on investments, rather than consumption, for its benefits to trickle down to the poor. Investments are the ones that generate jobs and increase household income, he noted.

Neri said that, although the economy posted robust growth in the first quarter, more effort is still needed to actually reduce poverty.

ABS-CBN to spend ₱1.5B more

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. WILL spend an additional P1.5 billion this year to upgrade its equipment, such as television cameras.

This is on top of the P1-billion budget earmarked for the introduction of its digital TV service by the fourth quarter this year, according to ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III.

Lopez said on the sidelines of the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday that the additional capital expenditure this year would go to the maintenance and replacement of aging equipment.

Other goals for 2007 are to convert $30 million in loans made by ABS-CBN to Benpres Holdings Inc. into shares of Benpres unit Skycable, and to take the cable company public in two years, alongside ABS-CBN Global.

"The business valuation by an independent third party is ongoing and is scheduled to be done by the third quarter. The surviving company after the transaction will be (called) Central CATV," Lopez said.

Skycable is planned for local listing while Global may be listed on the Singapore or Hong Kong bourses.

Lopez said the number of shares to be offered has yet to be determined.

Another goal for the company this year is to grow its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization by at least 20 percent.

CFO Jose Miguel Navarrete said: "Our Ebitda grew 24 percent from 2006, and for the quarter it grew 29 percent, so we should be able to grow it close to 20 percent for the year, or even higher than that."

"We are closing the (ratings) gap in Mega Manila and we are at parity with GMA in Metro Manila," Lopez said.

Shares close 2.24% ...

From page B1

billion ($155 million) were traded.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the day's gainers, rising P85 to P2,555. Rival Globe Telecom Inc. added P25 to P1,360.

Property developer Ayala Land Inc. rose 50 centavos to P15.50, while its parent, conglomerate Ayala Corp., edged up P10 to P530.

Food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares advanced 50 centavos to P66, while its B-shares added 50 centavos to P76.50. *AFP*

SEAFRONT RESOURCES CORPORATION
7th Floor, JMT Building, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Telephone No. 637-2917 Fax. No. 634-6066

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual stockholders' meeting of SEAFRONT RESOURCES CORPORATION will be held at Rooms 527-528 YIAS, Level 5 Podium 4, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Cor. Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenues, Makati City on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. The order of business at said meeting will be as follows:

1. **Certification of Service of Notice;**
2. **Determination of Quorum/Call to Order;**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the last Stockholders' Meeting held on 23 June 2006;**
4. **Approval of Management Report and the 2006 Audited Financial Statements;**
5. **Confirmation and Ratification of all acts, contracts and investments made and entered into by Management and/or Board of Directors during the period of 23 June 2006 to 21 June 2007;**
6. **Election of Nine (9) members of the Board of Directors for the ensuing year (including Independent Directors);**
7. **Appointment of External Auditors;**
8. **Other Matters; and**
9. **Adjournment.**

Please be advised that the record date of stockholders entitled to vote at said meeting shall be 21 May 2007. Registration for the meeting shall commence at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at the above venue.

(Sgd.) ARTURO B. MAULION
Asst. Corporate Secretary

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NASA WATER CORP. 48C Samut Street, Brgy. Sto Domingo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 742-1313; 412-1313; 711-4355; 742-4658 Cell No.: 0922-8421313
CEBU: (032) 232-8890 • TACLOBAN: (053) 832-3003 • BACOLOD: 0920-9300750

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 29, 2007	Last Week May 22, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.62705	1.62748
Managed Fund - Peso	1.90313	1.91023
Growth Fund - Peso	1.87298	1.90079
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3954	1.3981

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE — Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	
	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
	May 28, 2007	May 21, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.280630	1.279173
Balanced Fund	1.453197	1.447474
Equity Fund	1.746250	1.734795

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN BALANCED FUND, INC.
- Registrant -

SEC - CFD ORDER No. 093
Series of 2007

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and application to act as an investment company together with the other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN BALANCED FUND, INC., the Commission, in its meeting of May 10, 2007, resolved to approve the application of said corporation to act as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its One Hundred Million (100,000,000) common shares in accordance with the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let a copy of this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from the date of this ORDER. The subject company is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER.

SO ORDERED.

May 18, 2007, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

URVAN ESTATE

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MODEL	SRP	D.P.	MONTHLY AMORTIZATION 24	36	48	60
URVAN ESTATE	1,350,000	199,000	59,097	42,114	33,704	29,176
		269,000	55,621	39,637	31,722	27,460
		329,000	52,145	37,160	29,739	25,744
		399,000	48,669	34,683	27,756	24,028

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DL: 812-7701 • 7743 • 7752
Txt: 0918-9142654

NISSAN MANILA
Tels.: 252-3566 • 251-9066
251-9060 to 63
Txt: 0919-2652644 • 0922-8331021

CAR & RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, INC.
Tels: 810-0151 to 55
Fax: 810-3655 • DL: 893-9222
Txt: 0917-8878756

NISSAN UN AVENUE MANILA
Tels.: 400-1020 • 400-2177 • 400-1622
404-2439 • 306-0163
Txt: 0917-5273696

NISSAN WESTGATE ALABANG
Tels.: 772-1826 to 30
Fax: 772-1877
DL: 776-0239
Txt: 0920-9516044

NISSAN SOUTHWOODS
Tels.: 889-2400 • 843-1904
(049) 430-1683 • (049) 241-3040
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NISSAN

20 local, foreign firms vie for exploration deals

M. Water to bid for sewerage project in HK

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA-LED MANILA WATER CO. SAID IT HAD pre-qualified to bid for a sewerage project in Hong Kong.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Manila Water said the project would involve the design, building and operation of a sewerage treatment system in Lamma Island, Hong Kong.

The firm will bid for a 10-year contract that can be extended for another five years with Hong Kong's Drainage Services Department.

The contract provides for the building of two wastewater treatment plants with a capacity of 4 million liters a day.

Manila Water has teamed up with Jardine Engineering Corp. of Singapore, Fujita of Japan and Sun Fook Kong Group of HK for the project.

Officials earlier said Manila Water was also exploring possible water supply or management contracts in China, Indonesia, India and Vietnam.

The company earlier said it was earmarking P30 billion in capital investments for the next five years to accelerate the expansion of its water and wastewater networks.

Manila Water president Antonino Aquino earlier said that capital investments would be focused on four key areas—expansion of its water distribution system, replacement of old pipes to cut down non-revenue water, tapping of new water sources, and improving wastewater services.

DOE expects to award contracts before yearend

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE THAN 20 LOCAL AND foreign companies have submitted expressions of interest to develop coal, geothermal and petroleum areas that were offered by the Department of Energy to investors under the 2006 Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR-3).

At the close of the contracting round Wednesday, the DOE said it received bid offers for all of the nine petroleum areas in the lineup.

"The proposals will now be reviewed by the DOE on the basis of work program, financial and technical qualifications of contractors, among others," Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce said in a statement.

The official, however, did not name the companies that have submitted bids for the DOE projects.

For petroleum exploration, the DOE identified nine areas spanning 71,357.3 square kilometers for development. These were in Cagayan, Central Luzon, Mindoro-Cuyo, East Palawan, Visayan Basin, and Agusan-Davao.

Last year, only four oil and gas areas were offered to prospective investors.

For coal, the DOE offered 14 sites with a total resource potential of 421 million metric tons (MT) for exploration, development and production.

Each site would be composed of three blocks, with each block spanning 1,000 hectares. The sites were in Quezon, Negros Occidental, Cebu, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Sur, Davao Oriental and Zamboanga Sibugay, Balce said.

In last year's PECR, no bidder qualified to get an operating contract for any of the seven coal areas offered.

For the geothermal sector, the DOE pinpointed three areas for exploration, development and direct utilization for power generation and other geothermal applications.

These areas, with a combined potential of around 100 megawatts (MW), are located in Mabini in Batangas, Biliran in Biliran Province, and Amacan in Compostela Valley.

The Philippines is currently the world's second largest geothermal power producer with a total installed capacity of 1,931 MW.

The DOE will begin the technical, legal and financial evaluation of the submitted bids.

Contracts should be awarded before year's end, Balce said.

Puregold investing ₱1.2B in new outlets

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PUREGOLD PRICE CLUB INC. IS INvesting some P1.2 billion this year to open four new outlets in an effort to expand its reach to more *sari-sari* store operators, who make up a big part of the firm's regular customers.

PPCI president Leonardo B. Dayao yesterday said in an interview that the company would open outlets in Tatay, Rizal; Meycauayan, Bulacan; San Juan and the Monumento area in Caloocan City this year.

"Each new (supermarket) requires an average of P300 million in investments and, at the same time, create some 300 direct jobs," Dayao said.

He said PPCI's thrust was to offer a more convenient supply channel to the public, especially small-scale retailers, at lower prices.

PPCI has 18 outlets, including those in Pampanga, Cavite and Laguna.

Also yesterday, PPCI kicked off the second annual "Ang Tindahan ni Aling Puring" convention at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

The three-day event offers buying opportunities for retailers with the exhibition floor teeming with promotions from suppliers such as Colgate-Palmolive, Nestlé, Procter and Gamble, Uniliver, San Miguel, Del Monte, Purefoods, CDO, Universal Robina, Rebisco, Nissin Monde and Splash.

"The convention is more exciting and substantive this year because we included in the program a project for overseas Filipino workers and another for the development of cooperatives," Dayao said.

Samie Lim, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who was yesterday's guest of honor, said PCCI was fully supporting efforts in promoting microenterprises.

"As a main proponent of the Barangay Micro Business Enterprise law, PCCI will push for more local governments to implement this as well as for the business sector to be represented in regional development councils," Lim said.

"We believe representation would ensure that government efforts in regional development would be well grounded and effective," he added.

Philweb to raise interest in IT affiliate

INTERNET GAMING COMPANY Philweb Corp. is beefing up its stake in information technology affiliate ISM Communications Inc. to 22 percent, from 17.5 percent, for about P100 million.

Following the company's stockholder's meeting yesterday, Philweb director and ISM president Eric O. Recto said proceeds from that deal would be used by ISM to acquire an additional 10- to 20-percent in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. ISM presently owns 57.7 percent of ETPI.

According to Recto, ISM is in talks with the government and Smart Communications for the purchase of additional shares in ETPI.

The company is raising P300 million from a stock rights offering this month involving 30 billion shares. Philweb plans to subscribe to 10 billion shares out of the total offer.

ISM shareholders are offered one rights share for every one common share held as of June 8. The offer period will run from June 20 to 29.

In 2005, ISM took over the control of ETPI with the purchase of the 40-percent stake of Australia Gigahertz Network International Pty.

ISM managed to turn around ETPIs financial performance last year, with P701 million in net revenue and P31 million in profit which were achieved after six years of losses.

In the meantime, Philweb president Dennis O. Valdes yesterday said Philweb had teamed up with PhilKingdom Inc. for the provision of a sports betting software. Philweb is introducing three innovative Internet games this year pending the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s approval. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Bangko Sentral keeps key policy rates, tiering system

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY kept the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight policy rates unchanged, as the annual growth in broad money supply picked up further to 26.3 percent in April from 24.6 percent in March.

In a statement after the monthly monetary setting meeting, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the board decided to maintain the overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent, as well as the tiering system on short-term money.

The steady settings indicate the board's cautious stance given the surge in money supply which may cause inflationary pressures by tempting consumer spending sprees.

Tetangco said the outlook on inflation remained benign, due to easing supply-side pressures, moderate demand pressures and well-contained inflation expectations.

Ample supply of major food items, the subsiding base effect of the value-added tax reform on the consumer price index and the strengthening of the peso contributed to the downtrend in inflation, he added.

"However, sustained growth in domestic liquidity remains a key policy concern," Tetangco said.

Broad money or domestic liquidity (m3) is a measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

"Domestic liquidity expansion has remained strong in the past several months and although current inflation has continued to decelerate, a prolonged surge in liquidity could eventually pose risks to future inflation," Tetangco said.

"In addition, volatility in oil prices remains a risk to the inflation outlook, given the limited production capacity and the threat of possible geopolitical disruptions. The possibility of additional wage adjustments also provides some upside risks," he added.

Legislative agenda for agriculture

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

AS THE NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS AND House representatives are now being proclaimed, it is imperative that we think about a legislative agenda for agriculture. After all, two-thirds of all our jobs today are directly or indirectly provided by this sector.

In the past 12 months, three of the main agricultural concerns I have written about were the water crisis, global warming and trade liberalization. These areas, also identified by the Alyansa Agrikultura as priorities, need critical support through legislative action.

Water crisis

The extreme difficulties we went through when we had the blackouts in the early 1990s will pale in comparison to a water crisis that may occur in the next few years, unless we take immediate action.

The United Nations Environment Program states that "demand for water will exceed availability by 56 percent, and 2/3 of the world's population will face water stress."

Agriculture plays a key role in this area. According to another UN study: "Today, agriculture accounts for 70 percent of all water used globally, and up to 95 percent in several developing countries. To keep pace with the growing demand for food, it is estimated that 14 percent more fresh water will need to be withdrawn for agricultural purposes in the next 30 years."

The last time we had a Water Summit was in 2004. It was reported then that the farm sector did not have a clear position on this issue, in spite of its being the major player in water. Just as the Afma was legislated to provide an integrated framework to address agriculture development, it is now necessary for the newly elected Congress to legislate a similar integrated framework to address the water crisis, with specific attention given to agriculture's role.

Global warming

The warning on global warming in the movie "The Inconvenient Truth" is a call to action that must be addressed immediately. The last Congress, especially Rep. Miguel Zubiri and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, should be congratulated for having the Biofuels Act passed.

We must move to the next step. A legislative integrated framework is now necessary to address global warming.

In the agriculture area, it has been shown that crops like sugar are good sources of ethanol, as are crops like jatropha and sorghum for biodiesel. Planting these crops for the legislated market for biofuels will not only combat global warming; it will also provide thousands of jobs and added incomes for our impoverished farmers.

However, for this to succeed, a new legislated paradigm must be provided to promote economies of scale, and discourage small farmers from working on their own without grouping together. For example, in the case of jatropha, 2,000 hectares are needed for a globally competitive module.

In agriculture, the old paradigm of small being beautiful (but often resulting in death) should be replaced in many cases by small farmers working together with the economies of scale encouraged by a new legislated paradigm. This way, we can successfully address the global warming danger.

Trade liberalization

Globalization is definitely beneficial, provided that the pace of trade liberalization is selective and gradual.

In the last Congress, three bills were formulated to achieve this objective through the creation of a single authoritative agency "to address the fragmented approach to trade and investment negotiations." This is the Philippine Trade Representative Office, with a full time chief negotiator supported by a strong staff. In Thailand, there are three trade staff members for every one that we have in the Philippines.

Similar to the highly successful United States Senior Trade Representative (STR) structure, these three bills should be synergized and passed soon, given the important WTO, multi-lateral and bilateral trade negotiations going on.

In the area of imports, there is a US$10-billion difference between the amount exporting countries report they shipped to the Philippines and what our government authorities report we receive. If this difference is largely due to smuggling, approving the Anti-Smuggling bill already passed by the previous House of Representatives will greatly help in recovering the P80 billion annual loss in foregone taxes. Aside from a fair trade regime, we will then have more resources to build up our agricultural global competitiveness in the now liberalized trade regime.

Conclusion

The cry of the times is to be proactive, not reactive; far-sighted, not near-sighted; responsible, not careless, and global, not parochial. We are hopeful that the newly elected Congress will heed this cry, especially as it relates to the above three areas.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112)

MALACAÑANG HOSTS FFCCCII OFFICERS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administers the oaths of the officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc (FFCCCII) led by its chair emeritus Dr. Lucio Tan and its president John K. Tan. FFCCCII's officers, board members, committee officers and regional executives, who represent its nationwide membership network of 170 chambers of commerce and industry associations, simultaneously took their oaths before the President at the Rizal Room of Malacanang Palace on May 21. The Palace hosted a special luncheon after the oath-taking. During the event, the FFCCCII presented to the President its commitment to donate and build 430 new two-classroom school buildings for public schools, FFCCCII also donated 50 Tindahan Natin Rolling Stores, which brings to 175 the total number of rolling stores donated by FFCCCII. Inset shows president John K. Tan delivering his message during the oath-taking ceremony. President Arroyo is shown with (from left) FFCCCII honorary president Dr. Robin C. Sy, Vicente Yu, Yao Eng Hue, Ambassador Domingo Lee, John K. Tan, Dr. Lucio C. Tan, honorary president Ambassador Francis Chua, Jimmy Tang, and executive vice president Tan Tian Siong. At the back are (from left) auditor William Gosiaco, vice president Tan Ching, Dr. Alfonso A. Uy, Angel Ngu, Alfonso G. Sly, Henry Lim Bon Liong, Domingo H. Yap, and treasurer Lorenzo Cabilangan.

ONE AYALA TEAM SUPPORTS UPMASA EVENT

The One Ayala program, an initiative of the Ayala Group of Companies spearheaded by its three companies Ayala Land, Bank of the Philippine Islands, and Globe Telecom, sent its team to meet with representatives from the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America (UPMasa) for the upcoming annual UPMasa event to be held from July 1 to 5 at the Wynn Hotel, Las Vegas. Shown are Ayala Land International Sales Inc business development manager Anna Tatlonghari, Dr. Marcelo Espiritu of UP Class '66, Dr. Norma Canesa-Espiritu of UP Class '67, BPI Express Remittance Corp's marketing director Rose Platon, Globe Telecom segment business head of strategic communities Alan Supnet, and Globe Telecom segment business manager Alexandra Bello. One Ayala, UPMasa's major sponsor, recently launched its One Ayala program-a rewards program initiated by the Ayala Group of Companies that links overseas Filipinos to Ayala Land, BPI, and Globe Telecom via the One Ayala Card-an instant banking, rewards, and privilege card that benefits Filipinos working or living abroad. UPMasa is an annual convention of University of the Philippines alumnae based in the United States.

Construction Show Cebu 2007 opens

Now on its 15th year, the Construction Show Cebu will showcase tiles and paints that resist bacteria, a complete package of wood components for different construction projects, leveling laser tools or even a stone coating system that creates a natural, granite finish for both the interior and exterior of the building or house.

"We are going stronger in our 15th year. This year's exhibit showcases more construction products and technology," said Lilibeth A. Ducut-Abais ; managing director of the LA Ducut and Company Inc, organizer of the show, which opens June 1 to 4 at the SM City Cebu Trade Hall. Abais noted that the exhibit has helped the construction industry keep abreast of the innovations needed to make the industry players more competitive.

The exhibitors include Vazquez Commodities Corp and the Vazquez Building Systems Inc (Vazbuilt) of the Vazquez group. The show is being held in cooperation with the Hardwares Consolidated Inc (HCI), an organization of Cebu-based hardware companies.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5291

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Bid Tender 1:

Various Rig Parts and Accessories	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
FDM 73503	PHP 360,400.00
FDM 73504	PHP 1,216,350.00
FDM 73507-A	PHP 487,000.00
FDM 73507-B	PHP 432,500.00
FDM 73518	PHP 8,521,290.00
FDM 73519	PHP 8,322,600.00
FDM 73522	PHP 4,004,000.00
FDB 73685	PHP 1,250,000.00

Bid Tender 2:

Various Mud Additives	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
FGK 70501	PHP 693,300.00
FGK 70503	PHP 820,000.00
FGK 70505	PHP 909,000.00
Lot or Complete	PHP 2,422,300.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Michelle B. Madrona** starting **June 1, 2007** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 for Bid Tender 1 and P1,500.00 for Bid Tender 2.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **June 8, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of **June 20, 2007.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 1, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) year contract for the janitorial, sanitation and garden maintenance services for the BSP Davao Regional Office, per BSP special terms and conditions
Approved Budget for the Contract	P3, 139,673.00
Contract Period	One (1) year contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 1 June 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	22 June 2007, 3:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	10 July 2007, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount P1,570.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI–June 1, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL
9th Flr. Banco De Oro Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Tel. # 811-4112/811-44-67

NOTICE OF VACANCY

POSITION : **PROJECT MANAGER IV (ARG)**
SALARY GRADE : 28
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Masteral Degree; Four (4) years in position/involving management & supervision; 24 hrs training in management & supervision; CS Professional (Optional)

POSITION : **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER V**
4 SLOTS (legal, PPDG,CDG,ARG)
SALARY GRADE : 24
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Four (4) years relevant experience; 24 hrs training; CS Professional (Optional)

POSITION : **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (DSG Suello)**
SALARY GRADE : 24
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Masteral Degree; Four (4) years in position of supervision & management; 24 hrs training in management ; CS Professional (Optional)

POSITION : **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V (ARG)**
SALARY GRADE : 18
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree; Two (2) years relevant experience; 8 hrs relevant training; CS Professional (Optional)

POSITION : **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II (ARG)**
SALARY GRADE : 15
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; One (1) year relevant experience; 4 hrs relevant training; CS Professional (Optional)

POSITION : **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IV (DSG Suello)**
SALARY GRADE : 15
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; One (1) year relevant experience; 4 hrs relevant training; CS Professional (Optional)

Interested applicants may file/send their applications with ID picture and/or apply personally to the:

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE GROUP
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
9th Flr. Banco De Oro Plaza, Paseo De Roxas St., Makati City
Telephone Nos. 811-4112/811-4467

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PAMELA B. FELIZARTA**
Deputy Secretary General

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL
9th Flr. Banco De Oro Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Tel. # 811-4112/811-44-67

NOTICE OF VACANCY

POSITION : **DIRECTOR II**
ITEM NO. : DIR2-3
SALARY GRADE : 26
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor Degree; Three (3) years of supervisory experience; training none required; CSEE/CSE

POSITION : **PROJECT EVALUATION OFFICER III**
ITEM NO. : PEO3-17
SALARY GRADE : 18
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Two (2) years of relevant experience; Eight (8) hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional.

POSITION : **PLANNING OFFICER III**
ITEM NO. : PL03-1
SALARY GRADE : 18
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Two (2) years of relevant experience; Eight (8) hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional.

POSITION : **PROJECT EVALUATION OFFICER I**
ITEM NO. : PEO1-20
SALARY GRADE : 11
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; experience none required; training none required; Career Service Professional.

POSITION : **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT VI**
ITEM NO. : ADAS6-19
SALARY GRADE : 12
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Two (2) years of relevant experience; Eight (8) hours of relevant training; Relevant MC 11 s. 1996/Career Service (Sub-professional)

Interested applicants may file/send their applications with ID picture and/or apply personally to the:

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE GROUP
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
9th Floor, Banco De Oro Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
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Compagnie 9.81 at CCP

THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE AND the French Embassy in the Philippines, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the support of Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom, Essilor, Veolia, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Air France-KLM and CulturesFrance present the modern circus company Compagnie 9.81 on Friday, June 8, 7:30 pm at the CCP Little Theater.

Compagnie 9.81 is led by artist Eric Lecomte. A journey between sky and earth, Eric Lecomte plays and slides in between the two spaces as he tries to stay in touch with nature, combining dance elements and acrobatics with aerial virtuosity during this intimate journey. Lights and video projections create a new reality, in which the artist crawls, climbs, floats and flies. Defying laws of gravitation, this poetic modern circus performance takes you into an imaginary universe.

A circus artist for more than 15 years, Eric Lecomte always tries to keep in touch with nature by recreating animal movements in his performances. His first experience was with the Cirque du Docteur Paradi. Avidly interested in dance and acrobatics, he worked with dance companies such as Olivier Farge and Retouramont . In 1998, he started to work with the modern circus company Cahin-caha and participate in shows like Chien-Cru and Grimmlin 2003. He later on founded his own company, Compagnie 9.81, which has been named after the famous law of gravitation by Isaac Newton.

For more details, contact the CCP Theater Division at 832-1125 local 1606-1607 or Alliance Française de Manille at 895-7441, 895-7585 thru Mr. Olivier Dintinger (odintinger@alliance.ph) or Ms. Marie Weckerle (marie@alliance.ph) or Earl Parco (cultural@alliance.ph).

Judge Juan Luna HS Class '73 Homecoming

JUDGE JUAN LUNA HIGH SCHOOL Batch '73 Section Rizal will hold a get-together alumni homecoming party tomorrow, June 2, Saturday at OP-Communications, 4th Floor Saville Bldg., 8728 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City. This is to acknowledge the arrival of Josephine Santos on May 27 from California, USA and also a surprise guest who just arrived recently.

On the same day, a turnover rites of the bulletin board donated by Batch '73 will be held at Belmonte Bldg., at 8 a.m. Please join us in this memorable occasion.

For more details, please contact Chito Celestial - 455-6202, CP 0918-4089611 and Rudy San Gabriel at 0919-4413140.

San Jose Academy Batch '86 reunion

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS 1986 OF SAN Jose Academy (Navotas) will hold a grand reunion tomorrow, June 2 (Saturday) at Pescadores Restaurant in Malabon City. Registration starts at 5:00 pm.

For details contact Dean Estudillo (9000272) /Andy Trinidad (6881651)/ Ruiza Penano (2839339).

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OBITUARIES

Photojournalist Evaristo Nievera, 83

EVARISTO F. NIEVERA, AWARD-winning photo journalist and former head of the Sunday Times Magazine photo section, died in Long Island, New York last May 23, 2007.

Nievera started as a photo journalist with Time/Life, then joined The Philippines Herald. Later on, he moved to Manila Times, where he headed the photo section of the Sunday Times. Along the way, he garnered several local and international photojournalism awards. In recognition of his significant achievements and notable contributions to the field, the US State Department granted him a Fulbright scholarship. When Manila Times was closed down during Martial Law, he shifted to advertising photography, a trade he continued when he immigrated to New York.

He is survived by his wife Norma, who resides in Carle Place, New York, and his five children Antonio, Corazon Enriquez, Carmelita Havens, Cynthia Chow, and Ariel.

He was also a very active ham radio operator. His stations DU1EN and W2NBC are now silent keys.

In Loving Remembrance of the Third Death Anniversary of

Teresa L. Diaz

June 13, 1921 - June 1, 2004

Quietly remembered everyday, still loved, still missed in every way.

Letty, family and friends

Special Masses will be offered in Las Piñas and Toronto.

Death Notice

MAGDALENA GABRIEL
May 27 1948 - May 25 2007
Her body lies in state at #5 M. Urrutia St., Arkong Bato, Valenzuela City. Interment will be tomorrow, June 2, 2007, 2 p.m at Palasan Cemetery, Valenzuela City.

LIBERATO CRISTOBAL CONFERIDO

"Liber"
Mater Dei Class 118

joined our Creator on the 27th day of May 2007 at the age of 61.

The bereaved family **Dolly Villamar Conferido**, and children **Leren, Leander, Leslie & Jonathan, Leo & Riza**; grandchildren **Tobbie, Lia & Lance, Leigh & Jan.** Together with **Paula**, his mother, brothers & sisters, relatives & friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at 24 Langka St., Constantino Subd., Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, 3rd day of June 2007, at the Marilao Catholic Cemetery, Marilao, Bulacan, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

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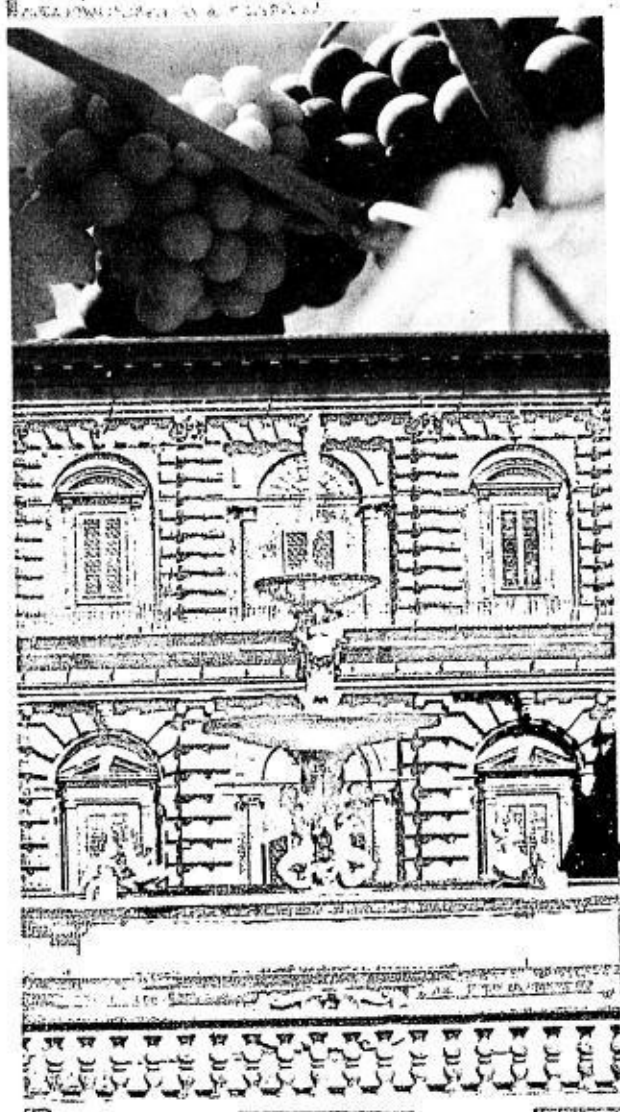

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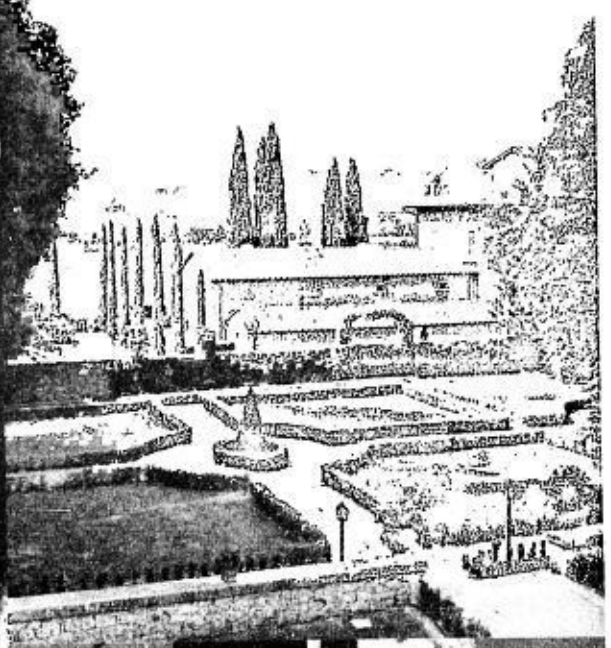

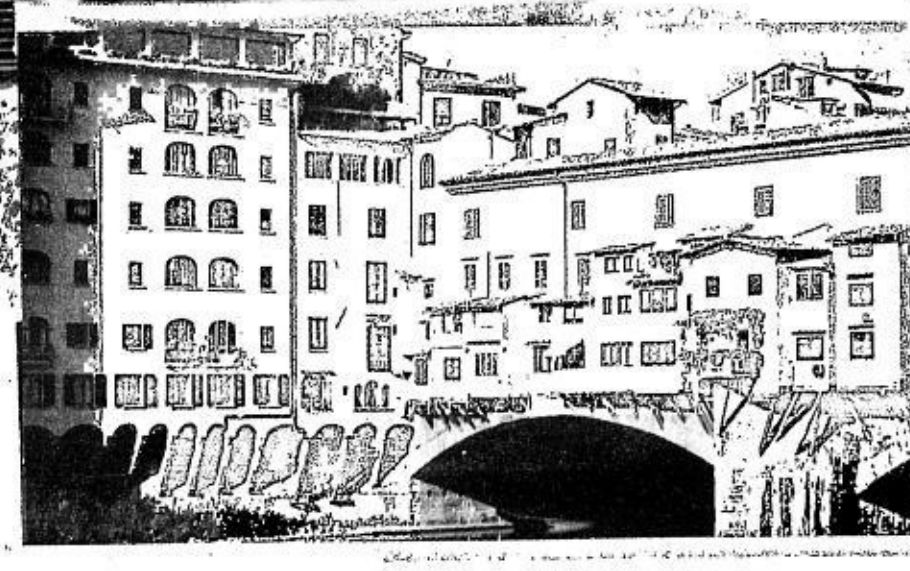

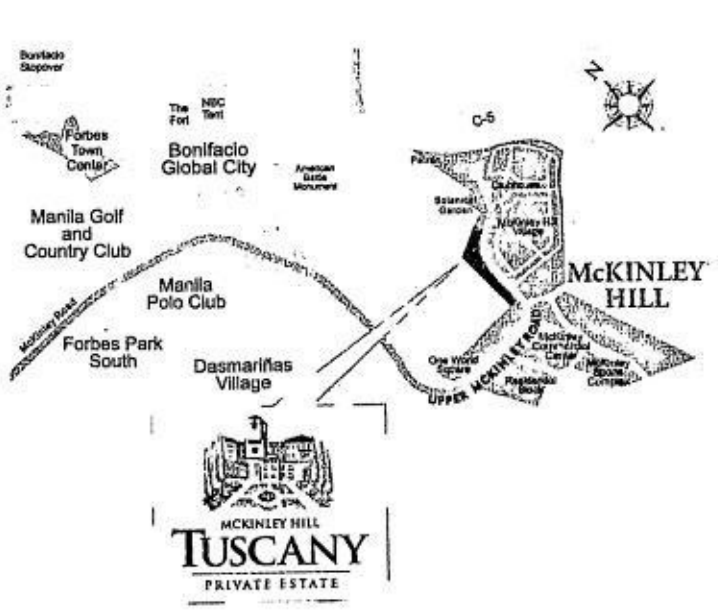

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Filipinos *likely to buy* 'green' brands more

But study says many firms claiming to be environment-friendly paying lip service only

FILIPINOS' ANXIETIES ABOUT THE deteriorating environment have moved from being a national issue to one of great personal concern, according to a new study from communications agency Universal McCann. A national poll completed recently, revealed that half of those surveyed said the environment was negatively affecting their appearances and health.

Universal McCann's poll was fielded as part of the agency's on-going analysis of trends and influences impacting people's lives, bringing about behavioral changes and shifts in product purchasing decisions.

The distress that people feel personally about the environment revealed a new level of concern to Universal McCann's researchers. The poll, which mainly covered people aged 18 to 40, revealed that 54 percent of people strongly agreed that their environment was having a direct effect on their health, mostly causing allergies and breathing difficulties, while 49 percent said it impacted their appearance, mostly relating to hair and skin care.

Overall, environmental pollution (77 percent) and global warming (75 percent) are the two factors more concerning to Filipinos than crime and violence (71 percent), and the cost of living (67 percent). Other concerns are government corruption (66 percent) and poverty (62 percent).

Such strong feelings have galvanized Filipinos' opinions on actions and responsibilities to do with the worsening environmental situation. Among those surveyed, 74 percent said companies and businesses need to do more to preserve the environment. Real strength of opinion was also directed towards government, where 76 percent said stricter regulations with steep fines are needed to ensure people do more to protect the environment. National government bodies (82 percent) need to act more strongly and local government was also singled out (77 percent).

The study by Universal McCann, also revealed changing aspects of peoples' behavior with environmental issues impacting their lives. People said they were more likely to buy brands that are seen to be environmentally friendly (47 percent) but then 54 percent also said that most brands claiming to be "green" were simply paying lip service to the issues. The poll also revealed that 62 percent of people felt there was an economic benefit for companies to be more environmentally friendly.

At the personal level, the two top initiatives that people undertook relating to environmental care were recycling (87 percent) and watching environmental documentaries (62 percent).

Overall, 61 percent of people said they were making efforts to care for the environment, but only 16 percent felt their initiatives were making an impact. Also in the poll, 15 percent of people said they were concerned about the issue but believed it was too hard make an impact.

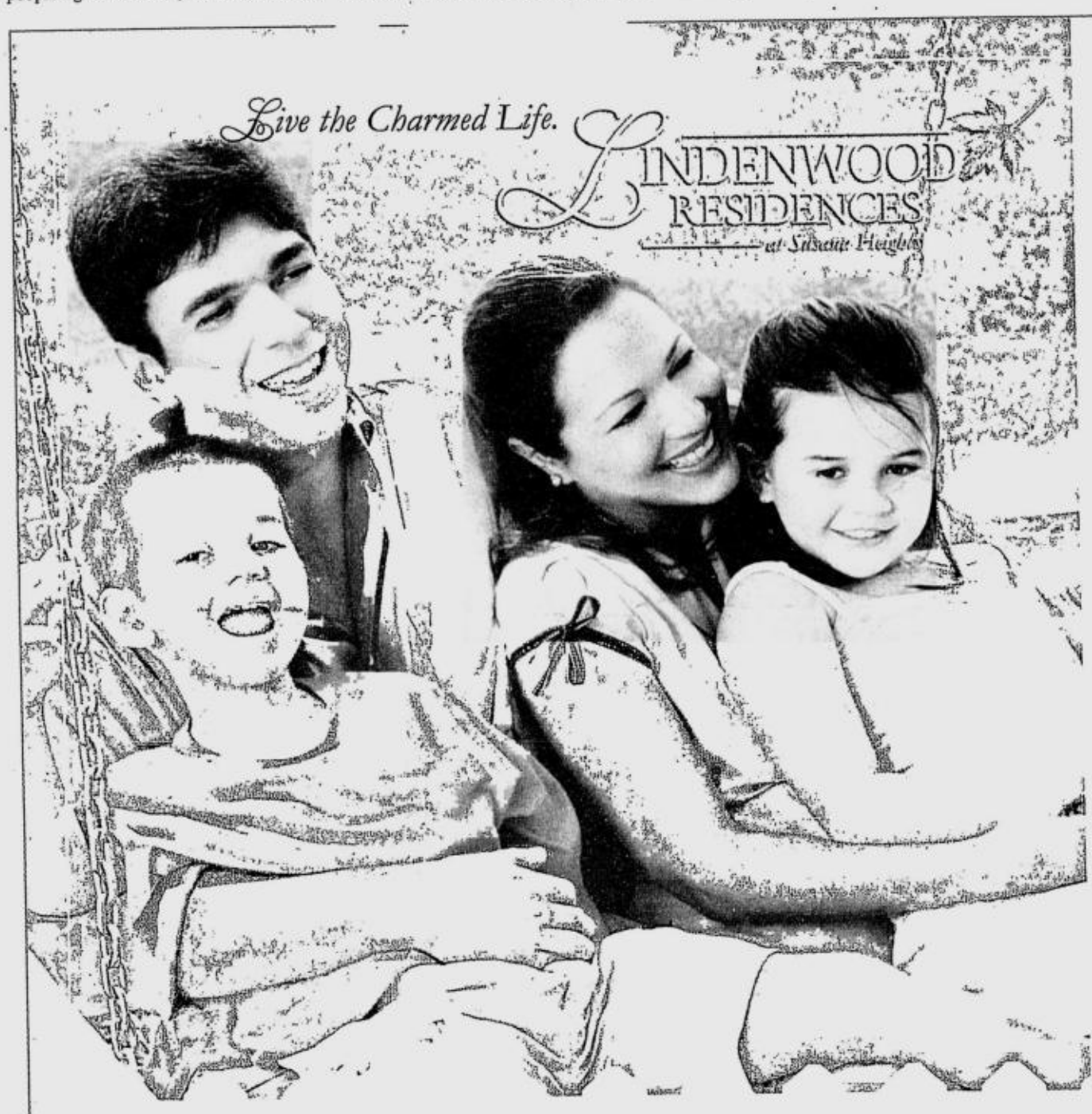
"Clearly large sections of the population have a higher sense of urgency about the environment than many people realize," said Universal McCann CEO Venus Navalta. "While the traditional media has been carrying quite high-profile coverage on the issues, we also have a very strong sense that the new digital mediums for communications are running hot with commentary and real worries on this subject, particularly among young people.

"So clearly this impacts people's buying decisions in all product categories and this will accelerate at a rapid rate," said Navalta.

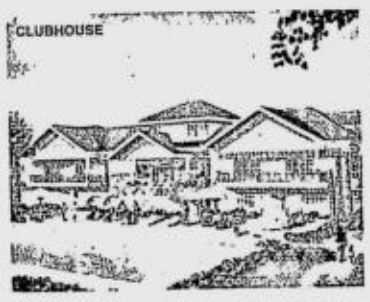
Universal McCann (www.universalmccann.com) draws up communications solutions through engagement innovation and accountable creativity for clients including Bacardi, Coca-Cola, Exxon-Mobil, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, L'Oreal, MasterCard, Microsoft and Sony. Universal McCann was recognized as Media Agency of the Year at the 2006 Cannes international Advertising Festival and is recognized as a top-ten global media network. Universal McCann has 72 offices in 44 countries and approximately 2,800 employees worldwide.

Live the Charmed Life.

LINDENWOOD RESIDENCES at Susana Heights



The Charmed Life:
Cool morning breezes and bright summer days.



Every day can be as perfect as a summer's day. The undulating slopes across the entire 21-hectare property provide charm and distinct character as well as picturesque views.

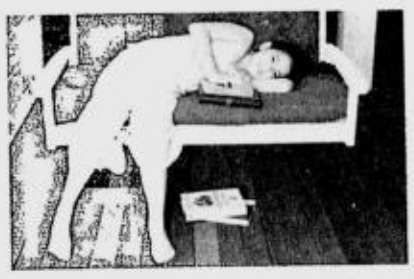
Verdant trees thrive at Lindenwood Residences, providing sweet relief from the sun's heat.

A stroll around Lindenwood Residences is the perfect way to start any day. Tandem a morning jog along scenic pathways with a cool dip in the lap pool. Or simply lounge around with friends in the clubhouse or the multi-purpose hall.

Spend sunny afternoons with your kids in the park or the village playground. And in the evening, relish the cool breeze as you relax on your front porch.

The Charmed Life:
A porch swing and a good book, too.

Curl up with a good book as you enjoy the North American country-inspired houses with picket fences and spacious front porches. Or simply laze around as you enjoy tranquil views from your own porch swing.



The Charmed Life:
Sprinklers in the summer with neighbors next door.

Delight in all of life's simple pleasures at Lindenwood Residences. With its community-centered layout, your children will spend their days making new friends as they explore your neighborhood. Spend lazy afternoons as you experience the bliss of the Charmed Life.

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Turning a passion for shopping to a selling venture

Novelty product importer teaches the 3Ps

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MELANIE NG INHERITED MORE THAN just looks from her mother. She also developed a love for novelty items and unique accent pieces for the home.

At first, she would just import items from around Asia—like sturdy Christmas trees—to complement her mother's Christmas decorative items.

But then her husband, Wilson, said that since she was already bringing in the trees and novelty items, why not open a retail outlet.

"According to Wilson, I love to shop, so instead of just shopping for myself, I might as well shop to sell," she says.

Quick to grab at the opportunity to do business, Melanie heeded her husband's advice and Premium Concepts International Inc. was set up in 1995 to import premium novelty and decorative items.

Two years later, the Premium Concepts retail outlet was opened at the Ayala Center Cebu.

"At first, we just had Christmas trees and Charles Dickens Porcelain Christmas Village houses, but I later expanded to include other items that I thought would appeal to the Cebuanos," Melanie tells BusinessFriday.

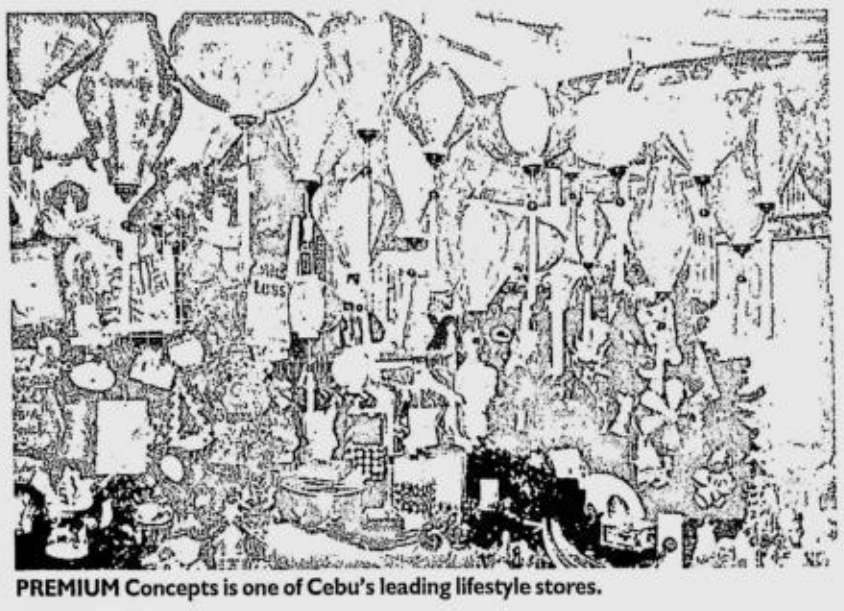
They appealed, indeed, because Premium Concepts now has eight branches—including two in Davao—and there are plans to put up more.

She is not too keen on putting up one in Manila, however, saying that the capital "is a very different market."

She says having the right product is the first step to making a business flourish.

For her, having the right product means having the right variety, quality, design and that uniqueness that all home owners aspire for.

"Choosing the right product and item is very important. You have to know what works well with your target market," Melanie says.



PREMIUM Concepts is one of Cebu's leading lifestyle stores.

"We offer our customers nothing but the best. Items like Vietnamese silk lamps to Indonesian wood carvings to Thai knick-knacks to sparkling semi precious stones in all shapes and sizes," she adds.

Melanie says she relies largely on her own taste when she chooses items, but says she has also taken it upon herself to attend gift shows around Asia to get a feel of the latest trends in the world of novelty and decorative items.

As a result, Premium Concepts has become one of the leading lifestyle stores in Cebu, carrying a line of accent furniture, jewelry, home furnishings and accessories.

She says it is also important to consider the positioning of the store, or how it wants to project itself to the market.

Positioning for Melanie refers to product packaging, store promotion, price range and store location.

It was because she wanted Premium Concepts to be the main destination of people looking to tastefully furnish their homes, it was imperative that she put up more outlets.

Melanie says it took eight years of running the first Premium Concepts store at the Ayala Center before she decided to branch out.

"My husband made me realize that in order to grow the business, improve and flourish together with Cebu's economy, we also need to grow our stores," she says.

"By having multiple stores located in the right locations, we are able to offer better and a more extensive product line to our ever growing loyal clientele at affordable prices," she adds.

ACCESSORIES are new additions to the products lineup.

Keeping prices affordable helps fulfill Premium Concepts' vision "to make everyday life more attractive ... and make the home a warm and comfortable place for family and friends."

Melanie says that it has been 12 years since she made a business out of her hobby, but seeing how she is able to share her love with others still gives her a high.

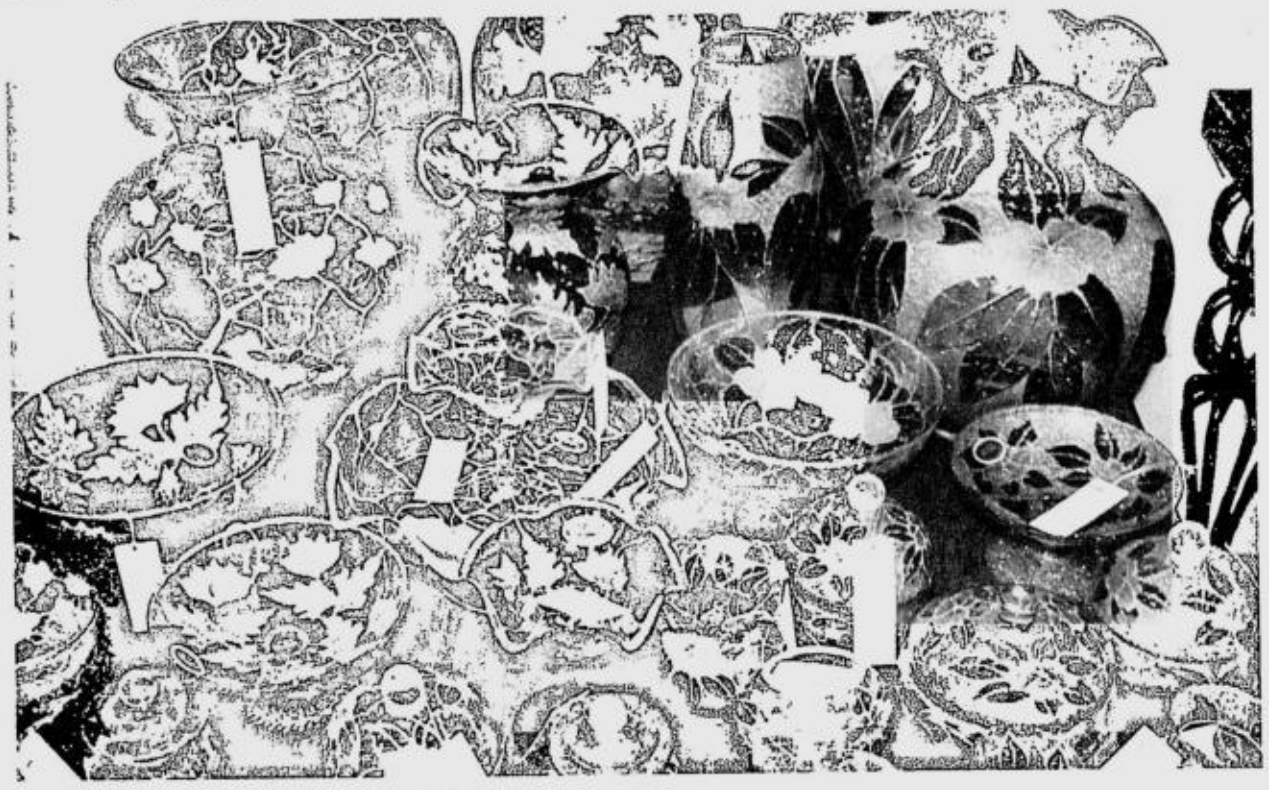
She adds that more than product and positioning, it is passion that drives a business to excel.

"When you have a business and you feel very passionately about it, you will do everything in your power to make it work. You will use all means to make sure that it will be a success," she says.

"You can never go wrong if you feel passionately about something," she adds.

With that, she encourages people with passion, a good product and product positioning to take the risk and go into business.

"From hobby to business ... if it worked for me, it can work for others, too," Melanie says.



MELANIE Ng shares her passion for beautiful products.

BIR computer-assisted audits coming your way

TAX-FILES

By Antonio P. Bonilla and Joel L. Tan-Torres
SGV & Co.

WHEN IT ENACTED THE CURrent Tax Code in 1997, could Congress have foreseen, much less contemplated, the examination by the BIR of computer-generated books of accounts and electronic records of taxpayers?

At that time, government and taxpayers alike had not yet logged on to the IT network, so to speak. Even call centers, business process outsourcing and Internet cafés had not yet even been imagined by lawmakers to become the phenomenal businesses they have become today. Nearly a decade since then, BIR systems for computer-assisted audits (CAA) are now well on their way to keep pace with the rest of an increasingly computer-savvy world of taxpayers.

The 1997 Tax Code authorizes the BIR commissioner to ascertain the correctness of tax returns filed every year and determine whether taxpayers have correctly paid their internal revenue liabilities. In the exercise of this awesome authority, the BIR commissioner is empowered by the code to "examine any book, paper or record, or other data which may be relevant to such inquiry" and if necessary, to summon taxpayers or any person who has possession and custody of a taxpayer's books of accounts and other accounting records "to produce such books, papers and records, or other data" and to give testimony accordingly.

While the days of manual examination of equally manually prepared taxpayer records can hardly be said to soon be a thing of the past, the expanding multitude of taxpayer data and information generated tax year after tax year to be stored, examined, matched and compared to detect discrepancies in the tax declarations and payments made by taxpayers have imposed challenges that require technology to be applied more pervasively to enable the BIR not merely to do its job but to do it well.

The impetus toward increased computerization of government came from the passage on June 14, 2000 of Republic Act No. 8792 or the Electronic Commerce Act which required government agencies, including the BIR, to embark upon the IT highway within two years from the time the law took effect. Thus, government bureaucracy was being prodded by the law to set up the technology-based systems that would allow the filing of documents, the issuance of licenses, permits, government certificates of registration and approval, and even the payment and settlement of fees, charges and other financial obligations to government, including taxes, all to be computerized and IT-enhanced.

The BIR has been among the first government agencies to step up to the plate, so to speak, when in 2001, it launched the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) to enable taxpayers with Internet access to file their returns and pay their corresponding taxes electronically. Three years thereafter or in late 2004, EFPS filing and payment of taxes became mandatory for large taxpayers and the top 10,000 corporations.

In 2002, the BIR computerized the matching of value-added tax returns and declarations from taxpayers transacting with one another as either purchasers or sellers. If sellers were not correctly declaring the amounts which their buyers declared as their purchases or vice versa, the computerized matching system quickly detected the discrepancies. Paradoxically, this system was called by the BIR "Relief" (Reconciliation of Listings for Enforcement System), although it could hardly be called that by taxpayers caught with discrepancies. The Relief program quickly processed the summary lists of sales and purchases of VAT taxpayers a lot more efficiently than if manually performed as was in the past. Relief was proving to be a success in detecting discrepancies that it soon was expanded to match import declarations made by VAT taxpayers with the import data of the same taxpayers from the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Thereafter, the BIR expanded its computer linkages with other government agencies which had likewise responded to the mandate of the Electronic Commerce Act. As of today, the BIR has, apart from the BOC, existing IT-based linkages with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Department of Finance (DOF), the Land Registration Authority (LRA), the Insurance Commission (IC), the Philippine Export Zone Authority (Peza) and even with 2,075 accredited agent banks of the BIR and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). These linkages have effectively expanded the scope of third-party information which the BIR can tap from to uncover tax leakages and to verify the accuracy of information provided by taxpayers in their returns and other tax declarations.

Thus, in 2002, the BIR began issuing what has become a new but indispensable aspect of their IT-based audit system, the letter-notices (LN's) to taxpayers. Through the LN, BIR notifies the taxpayer of the discrepancies uncovered between the information provided in their returns and declarations and the information obtained from Relief, and requires the taxpayers to respond and explain how the discrepancies came about and to resolve these with the BIR. If the taxpayer agrees with the tax payment discrepancies specified in the LN, the taxpayer can then pay the deficiency amount arising from such discrepancies within 60 days from the issuance of the LN to avoid also paying interest and corresponding penalties from such discrepancies. However, if the taxpayer does not agree with the discrepancies reported in the LN, he must provide the BIR with a written explanation reconciling the discrepancies found with the tax return information filed by the taxpayer within 120 days from the issuance of the LN. Together with such written explanation, the taxpayer must also submit sworn certifications on the veracity of the statements made. If the LN remains unresolved within 120 days, the BIR then issues a formal letter of authority (LA) to the taxpayer and a full-blown audit investigation of the taxpayer's records and books of accounts commences.

Today, the BIR's computerization program has become fully integrated and is firmly in place that the bureau has now been issuing under its letter notice system (LNS), automatically generated electronic LNs to taxpayers. The LNs from the system can be Web-deployed by the BIR to the different revenue district offices (RDOs) and the latter have a Web-based log-on facility to update the system with the status of an LN that was issued to a taxpayer. Today also, it is no longer unusual for a taxpayer to receive not only an LN but also an LA within the same tax year.

Last year, with the success of the LN as a computer-based audit employing Web-based third-party information, the BIR launched a training program for its revenue officers and examiners to equip them with the additional knowledge and skills required by computer-assisted audit tools and techniques (CAATTs). With the assistance of the World Bank, the BIR developed a computer-assisted audit program (CAAP). Flexing its new computer-enhanced skills, the BIR pilot-tested the program initially on two large taxpayers and this year, the CAAP will be fully implemented in the large taxpayers service (LTS) and the national investigation division (NID) at the national office of the BIR. The CAAP has also been slated for implementation this year in the computerized revenue district offices of BIR Revenue Regions Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

In tandem with the CAAP, the BIR recently issued Revenue Regulations No. 16-06 which now requires the submission by taxpayers of their electronic books of accounts and computerized records when requested by revenue officers in the course of an audit examination. The new regulations took effect on Nov. 6, 2006.

Revenue Regulations No. 16-2006 interprets the authority given by the 1997 Tax Code to the BIR commissioner to "examine any book, paper or record, or other data which may be relevant," and to require taxpayers "to produce such books, papers and records, or other data," more expansively to cover not only traditionally manually prepared documents but now also computer-generated records and accounts of the taxpayer in the course of a tax audit investigation. Prior to the issuance of RR No. 16-06, taxpayers were uncertain whether the requests of BIR revenue officers for copies of their electronic files and records had any legal and regulatory basis. Moreover, without appropriate regulatory parameters and guidelines for such requests, which had become increasingly more frequent in recent years, taxpayers were wary whether, in complying with such requests, the confidentiality of their electronic files and records would be properly safeguarded. The newly issued regulations now provide the legal basis and guidelines for such requests.

All taxpayers engaged in business, whether classified as regular or large taxpayers, whose computerized accounting systems (CAS) have been duly approved by the BIR and registered under Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 29-02 are covered by RR No. 16-06. Basically, covered taxpayers are required to submit to the BIR examiners conducting the audit, their books of accounts and other financial records in electronic format. These must be submitted on or before the due date specified in the LN, LA or other audit notice issued to the taxpayer. The BIR examiners are not precluded, however, from requesting from the taxpayer both electronic and manual records. Moreover, during their verification process, the examiners may require the taxpayer to present the actual transaction documents supporting the computerized entries made in their electronic books of accounts. Failure by the taxpayer to comply with these requests may subject him to the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum by the BIR commissioner.

The electronic accounting records to be submitted by the taxpayer are required by the regulations to be stored in recordable compact disks (CD-R), digital video discs (DVD-R) or other optical media in a format that is readable by the audit tools and equipment of the BIR as specified in the regulations. Together with the submission of its e-documents, the taxpayer must execute an affidavit attesting to the accuracy, correctness and completeness of the electronic records submitted. In the course of the audit investigation, the taxpayer is required to provide the investigating revenue officers an overview of the computer systems that generated the documents submitted for the taxable year under audit. After the audit investigation has been concluded and the report of investigation has been reviewed and approved by higher authorities, the BIR examiners are required by the regulations to return to the taxpayer the same computerized records and documents earlier submitted to them intact and in the original format. The new regulations also provide that the electronic documents submitted by the taxpayer shall have the legal effect and probative value as evidence in any legal proceedings, in accordance with Section 7 of RA No. 8792 or the Electronic Commerce Act of 2002.

The taxpayer is likewise required by the regulations to preserve and retain their computerized documents in their original electronic format for the same number of years, generally three years, and under the same conditions imposed on manually prepared books of accounts and records by the provisions on the preservation of regular books of accounts and other records laid down in Section 235 of the Tax Code.

If BIR is gearing itself to conduct and expand its computerized tax audits on taxpayers for now and the coming years, are taxpayers ready to be electronically audited as well?

Cebu moves to maximize ...

From page B2-4

trepreneurship component, which is under Island Souvenirs president Jay Aldeguer, also focuses on the development of tourism entrepreneurs, including the small store owners.

Espina, who had been at the forefront of developing the culture of tourism in Cebu, says the community has slowly realized the contribution of tourism to Cebu's economy.

For instance, she says, the towns included in the province's Suroy-suroy sa Sugbo (Touring Cebu) project have started developing their tourist attractions as well as their delicacies and products for souvenirs.

Jenny Franco, president of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies, says foreign tourists who joined the tour considered the warmth and the hospitality of the people as a major strength.

Franco says the congress would help increase awareness among foreign participants of what Cebu and the nearby areas have to offer to tourists.

At the same time, she says, the local stakeholders and other entrepreneurs could learn that Cebu could also tap, with success, the huge tourism market in the region.

Espina's efforts in promoting the culture of tourism have gained grounds as some schools here would require its elementary and high school students to attend tourism-related seminars starting the incoming school year.

But Cebu would also like to break grounds this year as the congress aims to develop the linkages among Asian destinations, Espina adds.

Cebu's domestic and foreign tourist arrivals reached over one million in 2006.

The Koreans remain Cebu's top tourist market, followed by the Japanese.

However, with the upcoming chartered flights from Shanghai that would start in June, arrivals from China are expected to increase.

PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED. Camp John Hay extended its association with chef patron Billy King of Le Chef at The Manor. Camp John Hay (CJH) executives and King signed a long-term partnership agreement to further build up the quality of food and service at Le Chef. The agreement also formalizes the joint effort of CJH and King in reopening the 19th Tee Restaurant. Photo shows (seated) CJH chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña and Billy King. Standing are Rafael Perez de Tagle, member of the board, CJH Development Corp.; Heiner L. Maulbecker, GM of The Manor; and Freddie S. Alquiros, COO, CJH Hotel Corp.

Success is in the follow through ...

From page B2-4

market but the idea was "pirated" somehow by ... who else?

So there's here a fundamental and often forgotten marketing lesson to learn and keep in mind. Market failure can come by omission more than by commission. What you did not do or failed to remember to do can kill you or deny you of a strong and lethal competitive defense.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!

A Piece of Inner Peace

A home that's a haven

Escape from the stressful life at work and find your very own sanctuary at Raya Garden Condominiums. With its unique Balinese-inspired architecture and design, these two high-rise buildings will surely create an extremely relaxing atmosphere that will allow you to unwind after a long day and leisurely recharge for the next.

The beauty of Bali, the comforts of home

Very few places in the metro can offer the beauty and relaxation that Raya's Jakarta and Surabaya Towers boast of. Imagine coming home to the incredible view of the Makati Skyline, the airport and the magnificent sun setting over the western horizon. The relaxing feel of Bali is taken throughout the entire building with atriums opening up to beautiful Balinese gardens every five floors. Soothe your soul by taking a walk through the wide landscaped gardens or by simply opening your balcony to let the fresh air in. If you want to stay healthy and active, then head over to the fitness gym and break a sweat. And if you need anything, a commercial area is close by.

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As a thriving community, Raya Garden Condominiums brings the convenience of Makati CBD and Bonifacio Global City in close proximity. And with paradise conveniently resting near major roads like C5, EDSA and SLEX, travel is never stressful.

Raya Garden Condominiums

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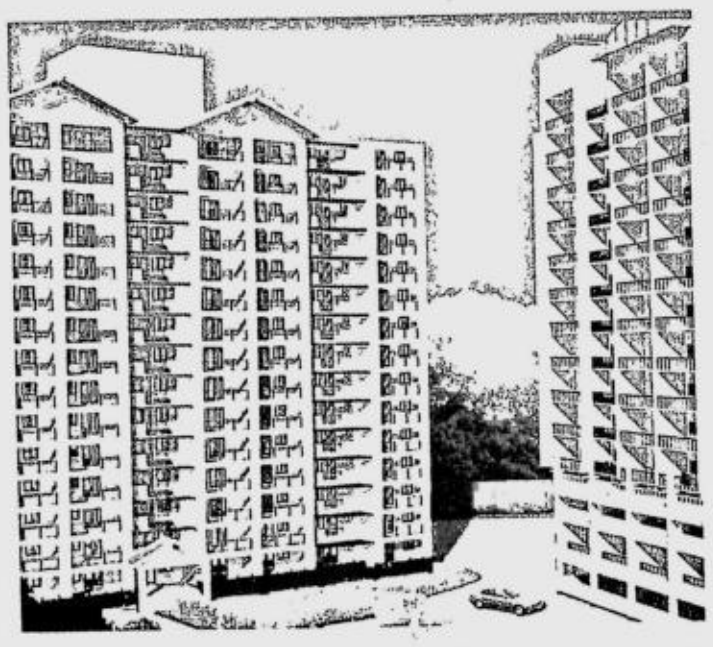

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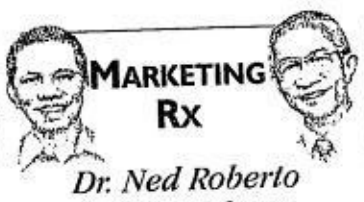
Success is in the follow through; failure is in the comfort zone



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE SAW THE YEAREND 2006 A.C. Nielsen data that showed the competitive standing of feminine wash brands. Market leadership is back to Lactacyd. That's quite a turnaround considering how much share pHCare had grabbed from it and was market leader during its first year of market participation. Do you think that that Lactacyd's launch of different variants was responsible for this?

A: We have not been following the market and competitive developments in this product category and with its two leading brands. But there are two significant things we know. We know what pHCare did not do or failed to do after grabbing market leadership from Lactacyd on the very first year of its market entry. We also know what Lactacyd did not do or failed to do during that first year or two when pHCare entered the category. Those two things were probably what made for the real difference.

Success is in follow through

So what did pHCare fail to do after its initial successful market entry? It did not follow through its effective market entry strategy of owning the daily use feminine wash market, a "Blue Ocean" market segment. In owning this segment, it effectively repositioned Lactacyd as the owner of the crowded therapeutic anti-infection feminine wash market, a red ocean market segment.

Was there another uncontested market segment to own and therefore serve as the effective follow through market strategy for pHCare?

Even a cursory look at the daily use market will show that this segment was the adult women market. So there's the young adult, the teen market segment to go after as the uncontested segment. It's just as, if not an even more, genuine blue ocean uncontested market segment for a daily use feminine wash.

If pHCare had gone after this market segment in the same way that it did with the adult segment, there's no way that Lactacyd could have regained market leadership. So in this sense, Lactacyd was just "lucky" that pHCare lapsed into marketing mediocrity. (Mediocrity literally means to go half half up the mountain. Midi means middle. Ocre means mountain. That's what pHCare did—they just went halfway and failed to follow through and climb all the way to the top.)

What about Lactacyd? What did it fail to do during that initial period of pHCare's market entry? That's clear from hindsight. It failed to do what it did later. That's what you mentioned: Introducing different variants.

Staying in comfort zone

Lactacyd could have resorted to this strategy right at the very start of pHCare's market entry. The communication strategy of pHCare persuaded the feminine wash market that there are two kinds of feminine wash: One medicinal and formulated against infection, and the other, nonmedicinal and formulated for daily use. Medicinal had a pH balance of 3.5 meant to work against infection. Daily use's pH balance was 5.5 and knowledgeable obstetricians knew that this is the right pH balance for daily use.

If you Google Lactacyd, you will see even at that time, that in England, for example, Lactacyd was available in two variants: One with a pH balance of 3.5 against infection like UTI, and the other with a pH balance of 5.5 for daily use. Why Lactacyd did not immediately introduce the 5.5 pH balance variant, no one knows. Perhaps it was in its comfort zone. But if it had, that simple move could have stopped if not killed pHCare right from the very beginning.

Instead, Lactacyd chose to take a defensive stand. It claimed that its 3.5 pH balance variant was just as good as pHCare's 5.5 pH balance. It was its occasion of marketing mediocrity.

Did Lactacyd panic? Who knows? But if it had gone basic and took a few minutes to Google, it could have known even then that it could have effectively stopped pHCare dead on its starting point. It could have even claimed that pHCare was just imitating Lactacyd's 5.5 pH balance variant that have been around for years and which it was going to introduce into the Philippine

SUCCESS/ B2-3

Cebu moves to maximize potentials in tourism

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—WHILE CEBU REMAINS A MAjor tourism destination, the business sector aims to maximize the industry's growth potential with the holding of a tourism congress this June.

Initiated by the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) as part of its annual Cebu Business Month (CBM), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Tourism Congress scheduled on June 14 and 15 at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) will target local and foreign participants.

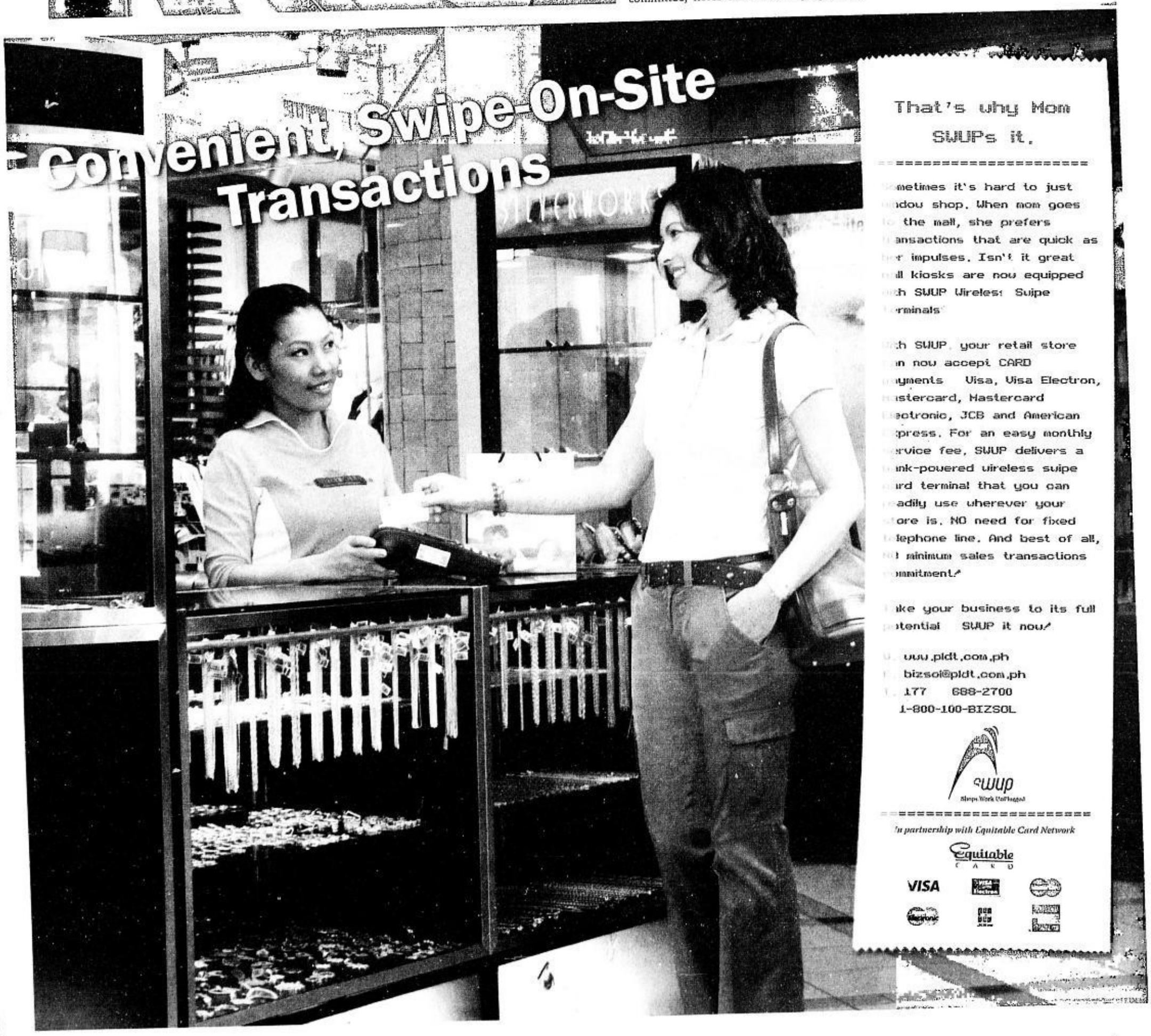
Mila Espina, chair of the tourism congress committee, notes that Cebu is prepared to promote tourism further as it had already laid the groundwork for linkages in the Asian region.

The congress will enable local tourism stakeholders and the downstream businesses supporting the industry to learn how to benefit from the growing industry, Espina said during the 888 News Forum held yesterday at the Marco Polo Plaza.

While the congress is on its third year, she said this year's event would be different since the chamber has encouraged the participation of other sectors such as the academe, the local governments and the small entrepreneurs so that the benefits from tourism industry would trickle down to the community.

For this reason, Espina says, the CBM's en-

CEBU/ B2-3



Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FASHION LIFESTYLE

Saigon sensation

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Louis Vuitton opens a swanky new store in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

MY IMPRESSIONS OF Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh, had been limited to Hollywood stereotypes from movies like "Good Morning Vietnam" or "Platoon," plus of course Broadway images courtesy of "Miss Saigon" that focused on a war-torn city.

So, it was a surprise to hear that Louis Vuitton was opening a store in the said locale.

Located in tony District One, right across the Opera House along Dong Khoi Street, the 150-sq m boutique was designed by the Louis Vuitton Malletier Architecture Team. The store features limestone and teak floors, wool carpets, Aniegre wall paneling, polished plaster walls and polished stainless steel furniture, in keeping with the new Louis Vuitton interior concept.

The store's most impressive display is a polished plaster feature wall that holds four LV antique trunks, which greet and lure you as soon as you step into the boutique.

It was also surprising to learn that this was the brand's second store in Vietnam. The first, which opened 10 years ago in Hanoi (roughly two hours away by plane from Ho Chi Minh), is currently doing brisk business, mostly from local clientele.

In any case, my misguided impressions of the city were quickly replaced by fascination at the interesting juxtaposition of old and new eastern sensibilities and very evident French influence. There were certainly no signs of war or strife, except perhaps in the War Remnants Museum. Instead, quaint stores, old but pretty edifices plus magnificent landmarks dotted the place.

SAIGON/ C2

THE LOUIS Vuitton boutique in Ho Chi Minh is located in an art deco building situated right across the Opera House in tony District 1.

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Saigon sensation

From page C1

Apparently, I was not the only one charmed by this lovely place. According to Vita Wong, Louis Vuitton's vice president for communications for Asia Pacific, she and her colleagues were enthralled by Ho Chi Minh while they were preparing for the opening of the store. So they decided to present their fall/winter 2007-2008 collection for the Asia-Pacific region in the city.

This is also the "Year of Travel" for Louis Vuitton. So, inviting the Asian press contingent to Ho Chi Minh was, simply put, a wise choice.

Painterly fashions

The city was the perfect backdrop for the fashion house's latest ready-to-wear collection. Inspired by Vermeer and the golden age of Dutch painting, the women's collection, which designer Marc Jacobs aptly named "Girl with the Monogram handbag," was characterized by structured pieces, rich textures, elaborate detailing and restrained, somber colors.

Jacobs used a pared-down palette of black, white and gray, with just the right flashes of color—from powder pink to burgundy, pastel to petrol blue, beige, ochre and yellow. The collection embodied a bold, modern, minimalist spirit that was a shade reminiscent of Jacobs' first collection for LV 10 years ago.

Standout pieces included loose, paneled jackets in rich fabrics and deep colors that were inspired by the artist's smock, and wool lame pieces that helped provide texture and shine. A stylized motorcycle jacket in metallic gray leather and multiple zips provided a contemporary, if edgy, feel to the collection.

Meanwhile, a series of evening dresses inspired by Van Dyck portraits lent a softer, more feminine touch.

Another characteristic of this coming season's collection was the use of color gradation, not only for the women's collection but for the men's collection and accessories as well. This was inspired by a painting technique called degrade, a diffused palette employed by Vermeer in his works of art.

Monograms galore

Speaking of accessories, there were quite a number of extraordinary pieces in this collection, which the LV team displayed in creative installations in the Park Hyatt's luxurious presidential suite.

The practical but stylish Neverfull, which featured an interior lining reminiscent of the first LV trunks, and the signature logo used for the house's advertising campaign in 1903, is a definite must-have this coming season.

Then, there are the new styles and shapes of Monogram handbags to watch out for, including a series with the iconic pattern gradually faded away, and colored degrade at the base; Monogram-print sheepskin modernized with a futuristic plastic finish; and frame bags with embroidered Monogram motif on matte quilted lambskin.

Shoes ran the gamut from pumps to boots. Some of the most interesting details were the conical, extra high heels, button and zipper details and patent crocodile with an ultramodern plasticized finish. Key colors were blue, burgundy, pale pink, besides the basic black and gray.

Trend alert for fashionistas: oversized, deconstructed berets, inspired by the floppy caps painted by Vermeer. Also, neo-ethnic pieces like Jacob's standout white feather and rock crystal necklace.

Dapper dandies

While Jacob turned to the Dutch for inspiration for his women's collection, he referenced 1920's Latin America, specifically Argentina, for the Autumn/Winter 2007-2008 men's ready-to-wear collection.

Classic elegance and traditional craftsmanship were evident in the collection that harked back to a period of glamour and the dapper dandy. As such, sumptuous fabrics like double-faced cashmere, shades of subtle gray, hand-finished details and touches of vibrant colors like emerald green and raspberry characterized the collection.

A key theme for the collection was the use of bold color blocks and subtle ribbon details. Yet another prevailing theme was the gradation of color as seen in various pieces like trenches, crombie jackets, shirts and even chinos. A series of '70s-inspired T-shirts featuring pop art renditions of LV leather goods provided an unexpected, eclectic twist.

Two-toned gloves were also a major part of the collection, as were a wide selection of costume jewelry: LV leather bracelets with Peruvian details, metallic silver, black and purple bone-shaped pendants, even flower brooches.

After the trip, plus an enthralling Louis Vuitton fall/winter 2007-2008 fashion presentation and store visit, my impressions of Ho Chi Minh have changed considerably. The city, once war-torn and conflict-ridden, is now full of life and culture—not to mention fashion at its finest.

Email the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

waitlist worthy waitlist worthy waitlist worthy waitlist

CALLING all Louis Vuitton aficionados! Here are INQUIRER Fashion's picks for must-have LV bags this coming season. Get in line now!

IT FLOATS! The waterproof Keepall is perfect for the chic adventurer.

THE PRACTICAL but stylish Neverfull can carry it all, kitchen sink included!

TRAVEL in style with this wheeled carryon.

THE Black Mirage Speedy is a polished version of a veritable classic.

awesome accessories awesome accessories

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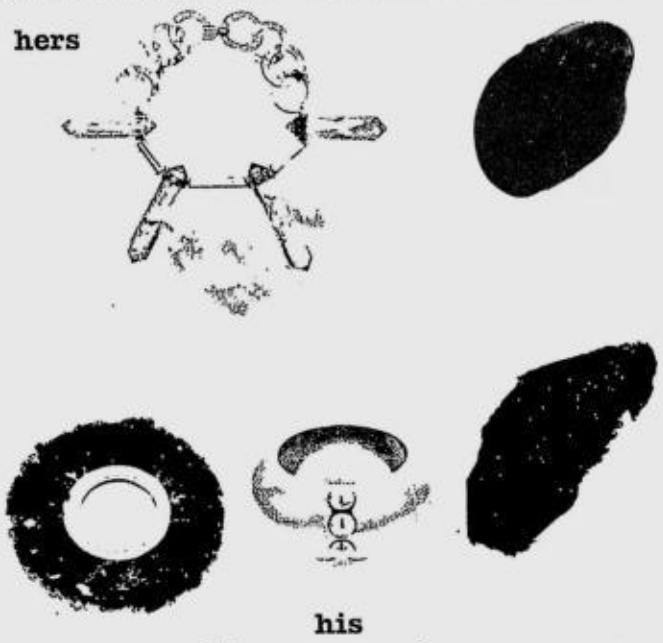

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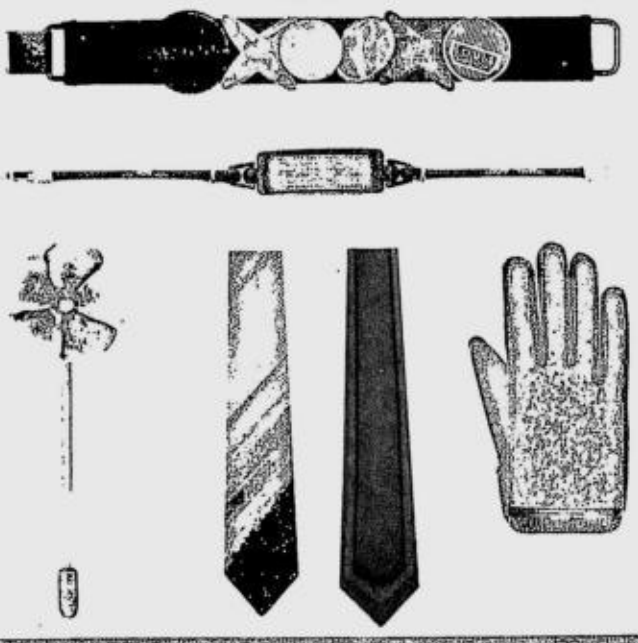

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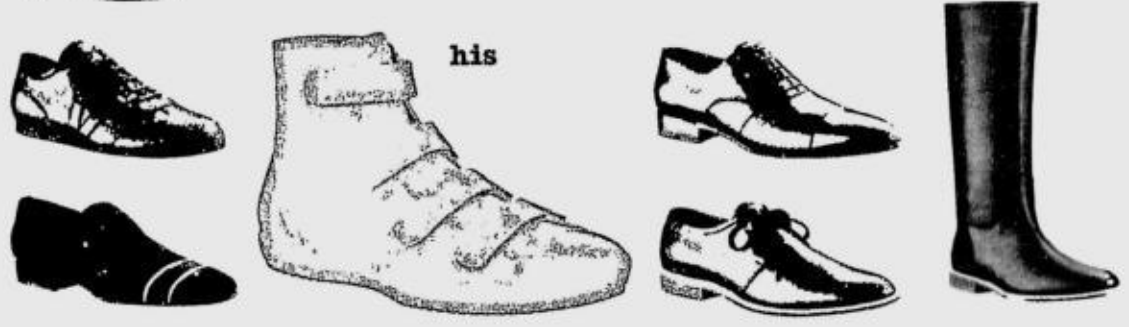

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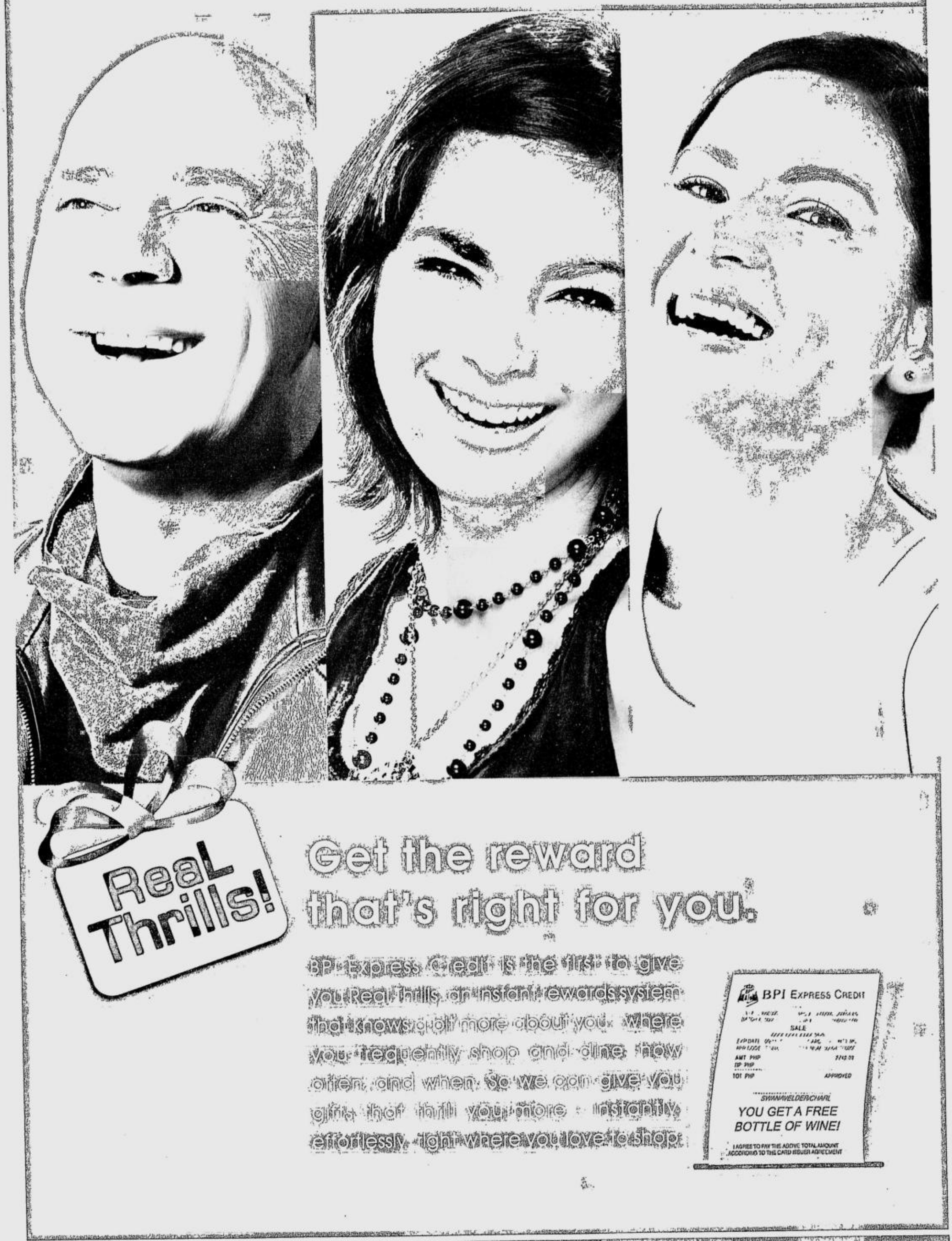

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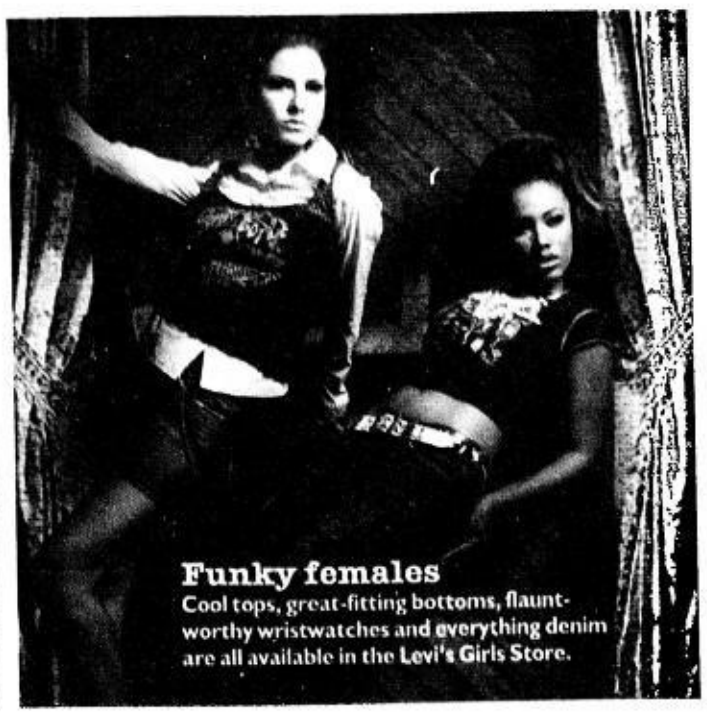
Siren call
The new Levi's Girls Store teems with unique fashion possibilities.



Funky females
Cool tops, great-fitting bottoms, flaunt-worthy wristwatches and everything denim are all available in the Levi's Girls Store.

All in the jeans

ATTENTION, FEMME DENIM fans: Levi's has opened a Levi's Girls Store in the Philippines!

It's about time, really, considering that the ladies denim line has been around since Levi's was first introduced in the Philippines. Levi's Girls areas within Levi's boutiques (there are over 150 outlets nationwide) are distinctly feminine, with dedicated fitting rooms. But now there is a boutique designed especially for women customers.

Located at the ground floor of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang, the store carries items that will excite fashionistas, from rocking tops to the best-fitting bottoms, flaunt-worthy wristwatches and everything denim.

Recent product additions include the Levi's Copper, Levi's Lady Style, the Levi's Red Tab line that gives the widest array of fits and finishes, and Levi's Engineered Jeans, for those who want more freedom of movement.

The Girls Store also represents a new stance of empowerment for women who are on the top of their game. Levi's is affirming every woman's right to have something iconic and timeless that is not derived from the classic masculine aesthetic of the brand. This feminine aesthetic is apparent in the store's interiors: fun and eye-catching accents, a generous use of the color pink and an overall fun, feminine feel that makes every lady feel at home.

The Levi's Girls Store is a place where you can find like-minded trendsetters going through racks and racks of stylish denim and apparel. Best of all, it's a place teeming with endless and unique fashion possibilities. *AAS*

Levi's Girl's store is at G/F, Filinvest Mall, Alabang. Also watch out for the Levi's Girls Store soon to open at Ayala Center Cebu.

Denim diva
Chic clothing and hip accessories made specifically for women

Photography Victor Consunji
Hair and make up Mickey See of Shu Uemura and Nante Alingasa of Keihl's
Graphics Burnwater Design Studios
Models Moana of Look Models and Juliana of Ahensiya Modelo

Short but sweet
Levi's Girls Levi's Lady Style collection screams feminine jeanswear sophistication.

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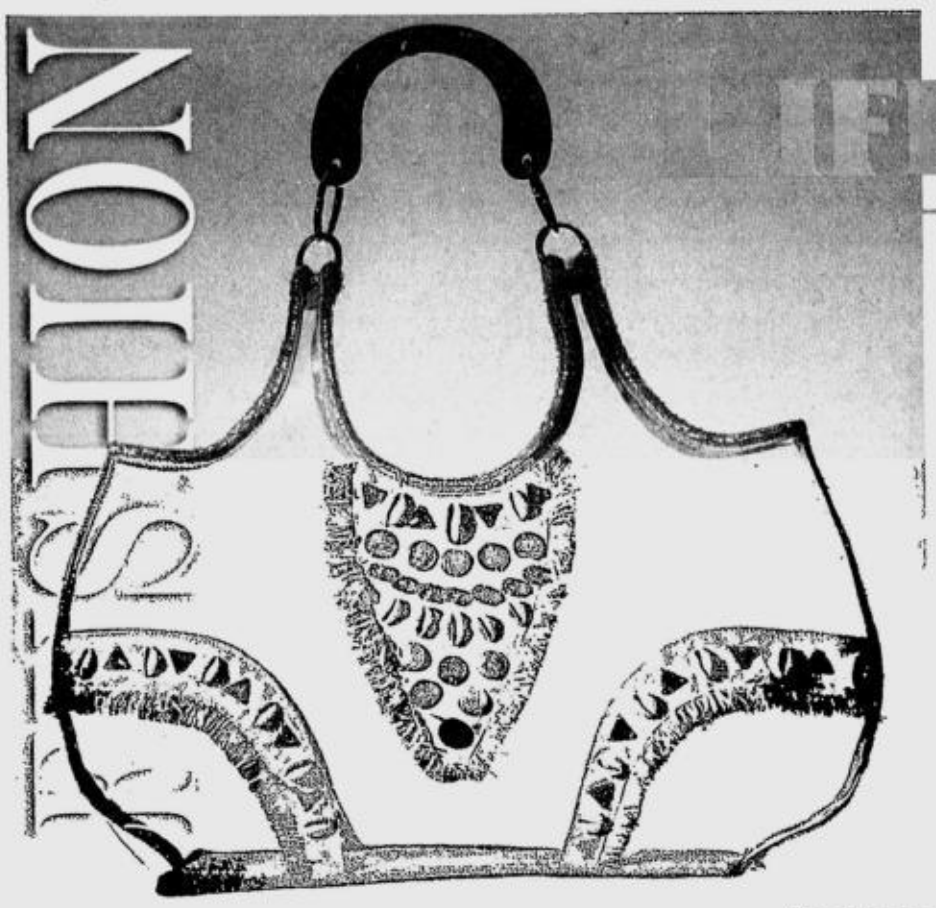

Amidala
Plastic and straw hobo with crystals and mother-of-pearl, P3,200

Loud and clear

Jenni Epperson

Masters like Chanel, Fendi and Michael Kors are going clear this year. Call it plastic chic

THE LAST DAYS OF summer are upon us and, as if on cue by a divine weatherman, the SFX of lightning and thunder are ushering in the rains.

Time to hang those bikinis and iron those plaid skirts, girls. Those not-so-favorite three words are just around the bend: Back. To. School.

So it may be hard to get excited about resetting the alarm clock from noon to 6 a.m., or hitting school books than pocketbooks, or even diving back into the caste system of high school to relive the "Mean Girls" for a whole new year.

But if "The Plastics" strike a bad nerve, think again. There is another kind of plastic to get happy about. The plastic bag. Yes, it's bag to school!

And why not turn plastic? Take the cue from the higher schools of style with masters like Chanel, Fendi and Michael Kors. They are going clear this year; call it plastic chic.

Macrame
Plastic lining and wood handle, P2,500

Exquisite brand

Closer to home, we have the exquisite brand Aranaz, which gets our thumbs-up for elevating bag design to an art form. This season, rain or shine, fantastic plastic is the way to showcase your essentials. No room for shyness here, ladies!

Oversized bags are still a must-have. They are accessorized and glammed up with special trims such as glitzy metallic leather, hand-carved wood, sparkling crystals, and the trademark iridescent mother-of-pearl.

Talk about reinventing the plastic bag! But if you're worried about revealing way too much (I mean, a lady's gotta keep her mystery, right?), then the stylish solution would be matching bamboo clutches. They allow you to store your valuables in style. And with the relentless rains, having a big plastic tote is a smart, smart move.

So class, the first lesson is clear: Aranaz gets an A-plus in style!

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Technorati
Pandan bag with silver trim and tassel, P2,500

Plastica
Plastic and silver leather with carved wood detail, P3,800

Mazoni
Pandan and gold leather tote with plastic pockets, P2,500

Photography
Tom Epperson
of Snapbox
Unit 255 2/L
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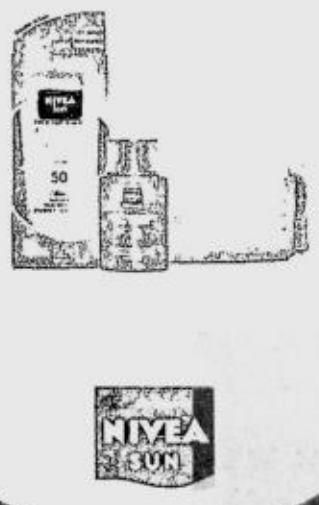

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On Steph: Karimadon black empire-cut dress with ribbon, P1,195; Get Happy by Happy David red cuff; T-Box head scarf, P300. On Tim: F&H orange shirt, P499; brown pinstripe pants

Rain check

To combat the rainy-day blues, use rainbow-colored gear to brighten up your outfits

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY, students have dark clouds hanging over their heads. In other words, classes are just about to or already have started.

But meeting your deadly, dull calculus teacher once again is no reason to look as gloomy as the weather.

To combat the rainy-day blues, use rainbow-colored gear to brighten up your outfits. Wet-weather accessories such as raincoats, Wellingtons (or rubber boots), umbrellas, hats and jackets can liven up the rest of your wardrobe while keeping you dry at the same time.

You don't have to ditch your favorite summer pieces to get through the season; staples such as capris, shorts and skirts can still be paired with your wet-weather wardrobe. In fact, wearing shorter items can be more practical in wet weather: How many times have you worn jeans, only to get to school with the pant legs weighed down by mud?

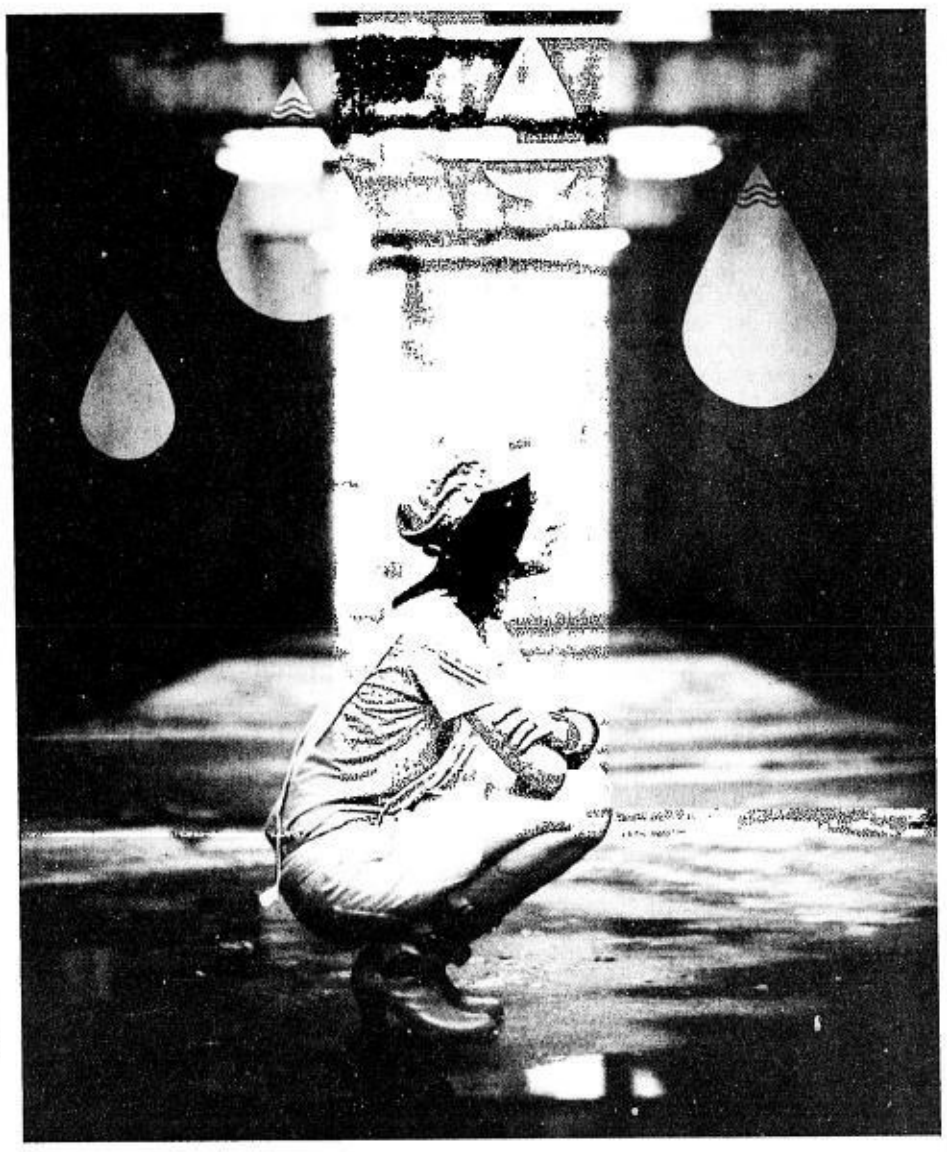
Unless you want to spend the first period frantically wiping soil off your jeans, consider wearing shorts or a skirt. However, when wearing shorter hemlines, be sure to wear something to protect your legs from the dirt.

A denim miniskirt, for example, can be worn with your favorite shirt, a colorful short trench, and Wellingtons. Wear last summer's tank top with a pair of jumper shorts, sneakers, and a jacket. You could also wear a short dress if you mix it with a cardigan or short trench and a pair of Wellingtons.

Stash a pair of flip-flops or sneakers in your car or locker if you're still uncomfortable with the thought of wearing rubber boots all day. Brightly colored knee socks can also lend a preppy feel to your look while keeping your legs warm.

The colder weather also calls for more layers, so don't hesitate to use vests and sweaters over colored shirts. Use bold prints and graphic designs for added edge and throw in a few accessories—suspenders, hats, necklaces, and funky bags—to complete your back-to-school wardrobe.

Rainy days and Mondays
On Steph: Freeway black and red shirt, P545; Store For All Seasons red bag, P980; Freeway jumper shorts, P925; SM Department Store black boots, P269.75. On Tim: F&H striped polo, P949, and jeans, P1,599



Raindrops and roses
Team Manila pink shirt, P500; Store For All Seasons beige jumper skirt, P960; F&H Trucker cap, P299; Schu Boots, P2,250; Get Happy by Happy David necklace and cuff

Photography Jake Verzosa
Graphic design Alex Paita
Styling Bianca Consunji
Hair and makeup Tatin Yang using Make Up For Ever
Models Tim Ludovica of Facets Models and Stephanie Afzelius

Sticky wicket
F&H pinstripe shirt, P949, denim skirt, P799, and suspenders, P249; Schu brown boots, P2,250; Lucy in the Sky by Happy David charm necklace

Cloud nine
On Steph: Karimadon geometric-print dress, P1,250, and yellow trench coat, P1,495. On Tim: F&H brown and white striped polo, P499, jeans, P1,499, and jacket, P1,199

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Magnolia Ice Cream Limited Edition Mud Pie Banana Supreme, Peach Mango Melba 1.9L **P221.50**/tub

Cadbury Choc Buster 330g **P185.50**/box; Dairy Milk Roast Almond, Hazelnut, Black Forest 25/kg **P189.50**/bar

Country Goodness Fresh Pure Milk, Low Fat 1L **P51.95**/tetra; Skim Milk 1L **P52.50**/tetra

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Cook Best Pure Vegetable Oil 3.2kg **P222.50**/jug; 1.6kg **P113.75**/jug

Baguio Refined Edible Oil, Plastic 3.2L **P239.50**/jug 1.6L **P124.00**/jug 1L **P63.35**/bot; Canola Oil 1.6L **P166.50**/jug

Marca Leon Corn Oil 3.2kgs **P319.00**/jug 1.6kgs **P165.50**/jug; Vegetable Oil 3.2kgs **P234.50**/jug 1.6kgs **P121.50**/jug

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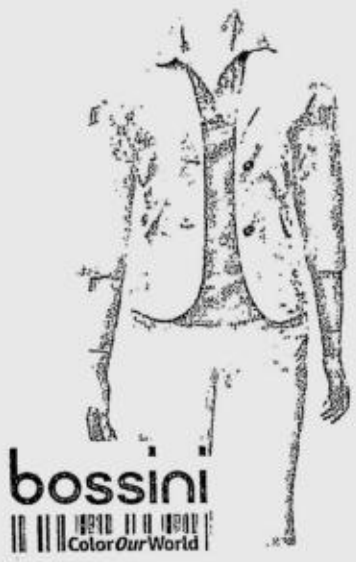

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Quezon

North
We were
a shared.
students,

our problem was how to turn most of them down knowing that no school would accept them for free."

But why build a Muslim school in Manila when the majority of Muslim children are in Mindanao?

"When these Muslim families get into trouble in Mindanao, where do they run to hide? Here in Manila, where they meet devious characters that teach them to sell drugs and arms," he explained. "I see no immediate solution to the problem in Mindanao. Unless the military vacates Mindanao it will not experience peace."

He said change can begin in the place where these troubled families flee to.

"These families experienced how it was to run away from bullets and cannons. They are angry. *Sino'ng gagantihan nila*(Who will they take revenge on)? Other civilians?" said Padilla. "If at least one of our 30 students belong to these families, then all my efforts would not be put to waste."

MAKE YOUR MOTHER PROUD. Robin Padilla's mother, Eva Carino, surely is. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

KIDS STUFF, GOOD STUFF: Padilla's school, which can accommodate 130 students, sits on a 1,100 sq. meter land in Fairview, Quezon City. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LIGHT OF PEACE, which is the English translation of Padilla's school is equipped with state-of-the-art computers for prep schoolers. The school opens in time for the full implementation of the Madrasah curriculum. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

FREE SCHOOL looks expensive. And it is. Even the playground will cost P1 million and is being built in such a way that even while playing, the kids are learning. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 175

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

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Warning Gonzalez

EDITORIAL

THE LANGUAGE WAS CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE: The Supreme Court ruled last Friday that the Department of Justice had pursued a fatally flawed case against Crispin Beltran and five other leftist party-list congressmen and their co-accused for well over a year, out of "political considerations." The introduction of political objectives into a legal case "trivialized" the administration of justice, the Court said, and in the process undermined public confidence in the rule of law.

The high court's decision in Beltran vs People of the Philippines was a stinging rebuke to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and his prosecutors, not least because the Court's Second Division, speaking through Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, made special mention of the landmark ruling in the March 1988 case of Tatad vs Sandiganbayan. It is a case Gonzalez should be intimately familiar with.

The Court pinpointed three issues at stake in the consolidated cases and then, one by one, found against the justice department.

The Court ruled that the inquest proceeding versus Beltran for rebellion was invalid: "The joint affidavit of Beltran's arresting officers states that the officers arrested Beltran, without a warrant, for Inciting to Sedition, and not for Rebellion. Thus, the inquest prosecutor could only have conducted—as he did conduct—an inquest for Inciting to Sedition and no other. Consequently, when another group of prosecutors subjected Beltran to a second inquest proceeding for Rebellion, they overstepped their authority rendering the second void."

The Court ruled that no probable cause existed to indict Beltran for rebellion. "The evidence before the panel of prosecutors who conducted the inquest of Beltran for Rebellion consisted of the affidavits and other documents attached to the CIDG letters. ... The allegations in these affidavits are far from the proof needed to indict Beltran for taking part in an armed public uprising against the government."

The Court ruled that the justice department had prejudged the case against Beltran and the other leftist party-list congressmen. "Indeed, by peremptorily issuing the subpoenas to petitioners, tolerating the [Department of Justice's] antics during the investigation, and distributing copies of a witness' affidavit to members of the media knowing that petitioners have not had the opportunity to examine the charges against them, respondent prosecutors not only trivialized the investigation but also lent credence to petitioners' claim that the entire proceeding was a sham."

Antics, trivialization, sham: Strong language, and tonic for those who run to the courts for relief against the abuses of any government. But there is more.

The Court admonished Gonzalez personally for issuing the following statement on the day of the preliminary investigation: "We will just **declare** probable cause, then it's up to the Court to decide." (Emphasis in the Supreme Court decision.) The Court ruled: "This clearly shows prejudgment, a determination to file the Information even in the absence of probable cause."

It is also, in our view, a culpable abuse of the department's power to prosecute. It opens the door to legalized harassment, with the victims left to flounder, or perhaps even to sink or swim, in the country's courts.

The Supreme Court has time and again ruled against politically motivated prosecution. Almost 20 years ago, in the Tatad case, the Court ruled that the Tanodbayan had sat on the preliminary investigation involving former Marcos Cabinet secretary (and future senator) Francisco Tatad. In his *ponencia*, Carpio quoted a key paragraph of that decision: "we cannot emphasize too strongly that prosecutors should not allow, and should avoid, giving the impression that their noble office is being used or prostituted, wittingly or unwittingly, for political ends, or other purposes alien to, or subversive of, the basic and fundamental objective of observing the interest of justice evenhandedly, without fear or favor to any and all litigants alike, whether rich or poor, weak or strong, powerless or mighty."

Gonzalez, who served as Tanodbayan from 1986 to 1988, inherited the case. Could he have already forgotten its lessons?

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Congratulations to Mayor Lim and My Manila

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Lim will have a mammoth task in coping with the complex problems of the capital city of the Philippines

I REJOICE WITH SEN. ALFREDO S. LIM FOR his landslide election as mayor of Manila. It is a deserved victory not only for him but for the City of Manila.

His city is also My Manila, as I wrote in this column on June 24, 1995. It was there that I was born, grew up, went to school, became a lawyer, married my Sally, raised all our five sons, formed many cherished friendships, and lived a contented life for all of 41 years.

In the district of Sampaloc, my father improved the small nipa-roofed house where our family lived into a two-story building on the street that is now named after him. It was from there that he rode every day to City Hall, where he served as a councilor for 20 years.

Vicente G. Cruz cherished his also native Manila but not as much as he loved by mother. His Aurora was esteemed as one of the loveliest young ladies in Sampaloc at the time. She and my father were high school sweethearts and they died within four days of each other in 1965.

It was in that year that my new family transferred from Manila to a new subdivision where our growing boys would enjoy more healthful surroundings. Our only daughter was born in Merville Park two years later. We easily mixed with our friendly neighbors, many of whom now live abroad but still visit us occasionally as wistful *balikbayans*.

We were not bothered then by the roar of the airplanes flying directly overhead but not when we were sleeping. And we did not hear the familiar cries of "*Balut, penoy*!" and "*Puto, kutsinta*!" all hours of the day—and night—in Manila. Truthfully, we sort of missed those noises that affectionately reminded us of the crowded city.

The cozy hamlet where we lived had after the war been congested by strangers attracted by the lights of Manila. When I went back some years later for a sentimental visit, I was deeply disappointed. I recognized no one and nobody recognized me. Even Tasio, who saw me from his corner Chinese store grow up from a small boy to a young adult, was no longer there. The calesas and carretelas had also disappeared.

This is also my 41st year in what is now Parañaque City that offers the conveniences of metropolitan life. Merville Park is clean and peaceful, without the slums of the old city. But somehow I have not lost my closer attachment to my beloved Manila. I was more interested in the recent mayoralty elections there than in the place where I now reside.

I campaigned in fact for Senator Lim in Manila instead of the local candidates in Parañaque City. That is why I was much elated when I learned he had won and that his opponents had graciously conceded his victory. It was a fair fight without the usual anomalies committed in most local elections. The honesty of his triumph made it all the more acceptable.

Fred Lim has served as mayor of Manila before, and I am confident that he will perform as well now if not better because of his experience as a member of the Senate. I think he was impatient with his work as a senator and prefers giving orders instead of debating about them. He will not have to debate with himself as mayor and will simply give orders for his subordinates to obey.

Lim will have a mammoth task in coping with the complex problems of the capital city of the Philippines. Manila is a cross-section of the population of the country where people from the north and the south and the islands in-between, Christians and Muslims alike, mix in merry and sometimes hostile confusion of their particular ethnic dissimilarities. As a "little President" of a miniature country, Lim might be unconsciously rehearsing for the higher office.

His record as an executive is well known. It is direct and resolute as demonstrated by his controversial order painting warnings on certain houses as occupied by persons convicted or suspected as drug pushers. The case challenging its validity was dismissed by the regional trial court, was sustained by the Court of Appeals, but was rejected on "technical grounds" on appeal to the Supreme Court.

I myself believed the order to be unconstitutional but it did not lessen my support for Mayor Lim's campaign against drug addiction in our favorite city. It is one problem that I am sure will receive special attention and more vigilant correction when he assumes his new but accustomed position as mayor of Manila.

Congratulations, Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, and the most prayerful wishes for your success in administering, protecting and improving your and My Manila!

Stop counting

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD THAT IN A RECENT gathering of theologians, the mystery of the Trinity was discussed again, and, as usual, they found themselves in a deadlock when it came to explaining the mathematical equation 3 = 1 and 1 = 3. According to the story, an exasperated theologian rose up and said: "Dear colleagues, we can never resolve this mystery. Perhaps, the only way we can resolve this mystery is to let the Comelec do the counting."

* * *

Today is Trinity Sunday. In today's Gospel (Jn. 16, 12-15) Jesus tells His disciples, "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now." If we approach the mystery of the Trinity as a mathematical question, we will never understand it. But if we look at it as a relationship, then we can get involved in it. Understand the Trinity? Forget it. Get involved in the Trinity? Now, you get it!

* * *

Understanding the mystery of the Trinity is not so much in the counting, as in being counted in. Instead of trying to fit the 3=1=3 equation in our narrow minds, let's just fit in, and be a part of the Trinitarian circle of love. Yes, let's be inserted and become a part of this tremendous love story that has neither beginning nor end.

* * *

Just how do we relate to and with the Trinity? The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct, but not separate from each other, so we relate to each one of them in a special way. It is not a stagnant relationship. Rather, it is a relationship that is dynamic and alive. There are many facets and "options." For example, we relate to the Father as our loving Creator and Provider; we relate to the Son as our brother, friend and loving Savior; we relate to the Holy Spirit as our guide, helper and healer. And yet, we relate to them equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one God and Lord of us all.

* * *

If you find it hard to relate with the Trinity, maybe it is because you are too proud, and cerebral. People who are so focused on human knowledge and control have limited horizons, and even limit God to their own horizons. Faith is a gift given to us. We are being given binoculars or a telescope, and we insist on our microscopes. We are invited to dive into the water, and we insist on wading on the shore just to check the water. The constant invitation of the Trinity for us is: Stop counting. Just come in, and be counted!

* * *

We are supposed to emulate and live out the Trinitarian life and love with our brothers and sisters. In the Trinity, there is basic respect for one another. Perhaps we can start respecting one another instead of imposing ourselves on one another. Something is basically wrong when, for instance, people's votes are not respected, and their simple wishes and dreams are trampled upon.

* * *

People who play the game of control should learn from the Trinity. There is no power play or manipulation within the Trinity. There are people whose hang-up in life is to be on top, to be ahead and to be in control of others. It's a lonely and losing game. Stop controlling a person, stop controlling a relationship, stop controlling people, stop controlling a nation and stop controlling God. You can't. Even if you can, it will not be for long.

* * *

Last Friday, I experienced the Trinitarian presence and love at a Mass held at St. Theresa's College, Quezon City. It was organized by the fellow teachers of Cora Pascua who is sick of cancer. It was such an edifying experience to feel the love and care these teachers have for one another, especially for Cora. It was, for me, a beautiful experience of being in the concrete love and presence of the Trinity.

* * *

I am experiencing a "foretaste" of retirement these past few days; I am staying in our retirement house due to the repairs going on in our Mission House. It's quite an experience to be with our sick and retired confreres, heroes all. Only God knows the love, sacrifices and work they have done in the past. And now they are housed in a lonely, quiet corner of our compound, just a few meters from our cemetery. What makes the silence and long nights bearable and meaningful? The Trinity. I know that each one of our precious confreres here has an ongoing conversation with the Trinity in prayer, and this serenity is the fruit of being involved in a relationship that cannot be measured, explained or counted all these years.

* * *

Summer is gone, it's back to school again for the children. One with you, dear parents and teachers, who continue the work of love, in season and out of season. The Trinitarian love must flow and move on.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to stop counting and to start, instead, being counted in your Trinitarian circle of love. Amen.

When litigants may choose their own judges

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

TO BOOST ITS THEME OF "ONE.GLOBAL.FILipino" as well as to stabilize its claim of being "the voice of Philippine business and the catalyst in creating wealth in the country," the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) organized a Council of Senior Advisers (CSA).

Who's who in big business. Recently inducted as members of the CSA were Enrique M. Aboitiz Jr., Ramon S. Ang, Jorge L. Araneta, Francis Chua, Eduardo L. Cojuangco, John L. Gokongwei, Andrew L. Gotianun Sr., Menardo R. Jimenez, Oscar M. Lopez, Rafael Ortigas Jr., Artemio V. Panganiban, Manuel V. Pangilinan, Jose T. Pardo, Enrique K. Razon Jr., Henry Sy Sr., Washington Sycip, Andrew Tan, Lucio C. Tan, George S.K. Ty, Cesar E.A. Virata, Alfonso T. Yuchengco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

Pleading that I did not belong to the "who's who of big business," I initially refused membership in the CSA. But I was prevailed upon to accept it by PCCI President Samie Lim. According to him, business people needed advice on the workings of the justice system, especially in understanding the business-related decisions of the Supreme Court.

After the induction, PCCI President Lim and CSA Chair Titoy Pardo called on each of the senior advisers for individual consultations. When they visited me at home a few weeks ago, they asked me to suggest one important advocacy that the PCCI could do immediately to help both the business community and the justice system.

After briefing them on the many problems besetting the speedy delivery of quality justice in our country, I advised them to embrace and promote the use of arbitration as an alternative mode of settling business conflicts. According to Republic Act 9285, arbitration is a voluntary process in which arbitrators, who are appointed in accordance with the written agreement of the parties, resolve a dispute by rendering an award or a judgment.

Privatizing the courts. The Supreme Court encourages the use of arbitration, because it helps to unclog the dockets of the judiciary and to improve its efficiency. As its distinct advantage, arbitration is the only method in which the litigants can choose their own judges and craft the rules to be used in deciding their disputes. It is akin to "privatizing" the courts, a concept that should endear arbitration to private business.

Because arbitrators are chosen on a case-to-case basis and, therefore, have no other disputes to attend to, they are able to hasten the procedures and the judgment. Equally important, the judgment is credible, because it is rendered by "judges" implicitly trusted by the litigants who chose them.

To be sure, arbitration may be conducted prior to, or in the course of, a court litigation. For this purpose, several privately-run arbitration centers have been organized both in the Philippines and abroad. One such entity that has attained acceptance is the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, which provides a list of arbitrators, administrative services and hearing facilities. The administrative costs as well as the arbitrators' fees are borne by the parties. These expenses are pre-agreed upon prior to the arbitration process itself.

Since it encourages arbitration, the Supreme Court almost always upholds the validity of agreements to arbitrate as well as the finality of arbitral awards. To enforce them, there is in general a need for judicial confirmation. But the process is fairly simple and the "execution" of arbitral judgments is almost always granted.

Our laws especially encourage the arbitration of construction disputes. A special government agency, the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC), has been organized to handle these problems. Different from ordinary arbitration, those falling under the CIAC's jurisdiction do not choose their own arbitrators. To balance this disadvantage, CIAC arbitral awards do not need judicial confirmation.

International arbitration. Arbitration is especially popular in settling international commercial disputes. In fact, most international contracts contain stipulations expressly instituting arbitration as the mode of settling disputes that may arise from them. Sometimes, the parties even specify the country and the private dispute center they want. Consistent with global practice, Sec. 19 of RA 9285 states that "international commercial arbitration shall be governed by the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law" (UNCITRAL Model Law).

Several global organizations are home to arbitration centers. For instance, the World Bank sponsors the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington D.C., and the International Chamber of Commerce promotes the International Court of Arbitration in Paris. Though private in character, these arbitral bodies have dispensed awards in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Retired Supreme Court justices, like Florenz D. Regalado, Florentino P. Feliciano, Vicente V. Mendoza, and Bernardo P. Pardo, have served as domestic and international arbitrators.

Some of the Filipino lawyers specializing in arbitration are Custodio O. Parlade, Sedfrey A. Ordoñez, Eduardo R. Ceniza, Wilfredo M. Chato, Beda G. Fajardo, Victor P. Lazatin, Eduardo de los Angeles, Eduardo P. Lizares, Claro V. Parlade, Augusto A. San Pedro, Mario E. Valderama, Philip Sigrid Fortun, Jose Vicente B. Salazar, Bienvenido S. Magnaye, and Rogelio C. Nicandro..

* * *

Comments welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail. com

A thousand choices

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I HAD WAITED FOR DAYS TO CATCH THE FIRST episode of "Heroes" on the Crime/Suspense Channel, on what had been billed as the show's "Philippine cable premiere."

Of course, I knew that "Heroes," one of the highest-rating shows on American TV, is being aired over a local channel. But past experience had shown me that this particular network was rather erratic in its airing schedule, often defying the regular sequencing and cutting to a commercial break during awkward moments. Watching a series on this channel was downright frustrating, with episodes jumping forward far into the future only to backtrack the next week, and then airing on an endless loop of illogical re-runs in the next months.

And so I waited to catch "Heroes" on cable last Monday. And I wasn't disappointed. The show was as riveting and clever as promised. During a lull in the airing, I stepped out of the room to get a snack and raved about what I'd just seen. "You don't have to wait a week to catch the next episode," my son reminded me. "I have the entire season on DVD, downloaded from the Internet."

Actually, my two children had been exchanging rave reviews of "Heroes" the past many months, watching the show on their computer screens as fast as they could download the episodes. I was tempted to accept my son's offer. After all I watch Korean *telenovelas* on DVD sets, too impatient to wait by the TV for the 30-minute episodes, though I watch out for my favorite dramas on "free" TV only to catch the Filipino dialogue which makes the characters seem more accessible.

But something held me back about embarking on a marathon viewing of "Heroes." There was a certain appeal in waiting a week for an episode, the tingle of anticipation livening up an otherwise dull weekday night. Like "CSI" and its spin-offs, and other favorites like "Grey's Anatomy" and "House," "Heroes" is best taken in small, weekly doses.

* * *

PERHAPS it's only by force of habit, established through many years of TV watching and keeping a viewing schedule in mind. But I also remember with fondness nights spent seated before the TV set or fidgeting at the dining table, impatient for the airing of one's favorite series.

TV sets were still rather expensive in my childhood, and there was only one TV for the entire family. All nine of us and our parents had to agree on a common schedule, and some highly anticipated shows included "Combat," a gritty black-and-white World War II movie that starred the pockmarked Vic Morrow as a tough sergeant, and an impossibly handsome lieutenant, whose name escapes me now; "Get Smart," a laugh-out-loud series about an inept secret agent who used a shoe for a phone; "Bewitched," about a winsome witch married to a hapless advertising executive; and "Twilight Zone," whose weekly episodes featured tales of the bizarre and otherworldly.

On basketball and football nights, though, there was nothing we could do but sit silently on the sidelines while my older brothers and their *barkada* cheered on their favored teams. And for a child still to be exposed to the world of socializing, shows like "Dance-O-Rama," to which my teenage sibs were addicted, were the height of boredom.

* * *

CULTURE critics accuse television of spelling the end of family intimacy, with family members preferring to follow the adventures of TV characters rather than talk to one another. "Someday," wrote columnist Ellen Goodman, "families will sit around watching a TV show about a family that sits around doing nothing but watching TV."

But what I remember of a childhood spent before the family TV were evenings of constant chatter, the younger ones squabbling over space in front of the set, by the feet of the older ones who were sprawled on the couch, and instantaneous feedback on what we were watching, be it an actor's hair-do or the logic or lack of it in the plot.

All this changed when TV sets became more affordable and we could place a set in every room at home. When my daughter was about 7 years old and still refused to sleep in her room, the only thing that could get her to sleep on her own bed was her own TV set. But even then—and now—there are certain shows that will guarantee a snuggle and a shared viewing experience. "Sex and the City" was a time for female bonding. For a while, we made it a habit to watch the "CSI" shows together. But there's nothing like "The Buzz" for a full hour or so of mother-daughter togetherness, since my husband storms out of the room once he hears Boy Abunda's high-decibel spiels.

* * *

YES, TV-watching is a matter of habit, but like so many other things caught in the warp of technological advances, TV-watching and other forms of home entertainment have also evolved and shifted shape and form.

Someone once wrote that while, in the pre-digital age, bookstores might have to stock a thousand books that a thousand customers might want, the digital revolution has made it possible for a virtual bookstore to contain a thousand books that a single customer might want.

We are faced with a wide range of choices, an endless variety of entertainment forms and venues. The family fighting over the remote control has been replaced by individuals repairing to their rooms not just to watch TV, but also to download shows and videos from all over the world on their PCs, an I-pod attached to their ears that allows them to choose from among hundreds of songs, and scanning a library of DVDs containing decades' worth of shows and movies, pirated or otherwise.

This is the age of instant gratification, and of broadening choices. But, I must point out, some things are best taken in single doses, in once-a-week viewings, the waiting enhancing the act of viewing.

Reflections on a child's first birthday

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SHE CAME INTO THE WORLD A YEAR AGO today, the first grandchild of my sister Raquel. Her parents named her Erin, a lovely Gaelic word derived from "Eire" or Ireland. On this blessed day, they have ordered a cake and balloons for the little girl, acutely aware that her first birthday could also be her last—unless, by an act of numinous grace, her fragile presence could be extended. She was born with a rare disease, and she needs a liver transplant.

Many babies acquire a yellowish discoloration on their eyeballs and their skin within weeks of their birth. Doctors call it jaundice, a sign that usually suggests that the young liver of the newborn may not yet be fully operational. In most instances, this condition soon goes away. In Erin's case, the yellow pigmentation lingered, sometimes deepening into a dark shade of olive. It also showed in her clay-colored stools, an indication that the passages through which the bile flows might be blocked. This was no longer ordinary jaundice. Tests were done, and the condition of the 2-month-old infant was declared a case of biliary atresia.

The ducts on Erin's liver, the ducts that serve as pathways through which the bile drains, are hardly formed. Instead of draining into the small intestines, the bile is thus trapped in the liver where it slowly destroys liver cells. The causes of biliary atresia still baffle researchers. In the United States and Europe, one in 15,000 babies is born every year with this disease. In Asia and Africa, the incidence is higher. Curiously, it tends to afflict mostly first-borns.

It is not known how many Filipino babies are born with this condition every year. It must be quite high. The first time I heard the term was in a television show hosted by Karen Davila. I later read about it in a magazine article that featured the almost miraculous recovery of the granddaughter of a friend, Jess Matubis, who waged a heroic campaign to save her from the disease. There is no treatment for it other than surgery. An ingenious method invented by a Japanese surgeon, known as the "Kasai" procedure, clears the obstruction by attaching the small intestines directly to the point in the liver where the bile drains.

A Filipino surgeon performed this on Erin when she was barely 3 months old. Not everyone is helped by this procedure, and half of those who are will still need a liver transplant, ideally before their 5th birthday. But even with the relief offered by Kasai surgery, the life of a biliary atresia child is far from normal. Bacterial infection of the ducts is bound to recur, causing further decline in liver function. Every episode of this infection, called cholangitis, requires hospitalization. It is often marked by severe bleeding, thus necessitating blood transfusions. This is where 1-year-old Erin is at the moment.

Last week, from the small glass window of the hospital's ICU, her eyes lit up when 9-year-old Katkat brought her a toy. The precious smile that spontaneously formed on the face of this ailing child made everything else in the world irrelevant. It is the one reason her parents never give up.

Until last month, they had looked forward to an extended medical trip to Taiwan, where Ria was supposed to donate a portion of her liver to her daughter. On further study, however, the Taiwanese doctors discovered that the child would need not a portion but a whole liver, complete with the plumbing system. This can only be sourced from a cadaveric donor, which means being put on a waiting list governed by a complex priority system. The waiting could be indefinite.

When my own granddaughter, Julia, was Erin's age, I must have written three or four indulgent columns about her. I documented every step of her awakening to the world, and captured everything I could from the gradual unfolding of this child's sensibility. I was awake every time she had asthma attacks, wishing I could do the breathing for her. She is now a lively 6-and-a-half-year-old, and this summer has been especially wondrous for her. She swam with the whale sharks in Donsol and gazed at millions of fireflies in the dark night from a bridge in Pilar, Sorsogon. She has learned how to ride a bicycle and to skate on ice. She sits beside me at mealtimes. I have memorized almost all her habits, and have even learned to appreciate the dense wisdom of Patrick, her favorite SpongeBob character.

It has taken me this long to realize that it is for the little children of this country that we don't stop striving to build a better nation. It is for our children and grandchildren that we build the future. No other goal, to my mind, can stir in us the same will to greatness that fueled our ancestors' struggle to create a free nation. It is what links us in solidarity to the unbroken chain of generations stretching from the distant past into the future. The countries that are worth something today became worth something because they built for the next generation.

Which brings me to a final point: For all the negative things we associate with the Marcos years, there is no way we can ignore the medical institutions that were built under the regime. The National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTI) is one of them—a world-class facility staffed by among the world's finest doctors and health professionals. They perform kidney transplants in this hospital on an almost daily basis, and now they have also formed an expert team for the more delicate liver transplants. Because of this, there is hope for children like Erin right in our own country. May she have many more birthdays to come!

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

His father's son

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

JACK BOCALBOS IS A TOUGH GUY AT 13. JILL IS 12, A sweet-faced, smiling girl with tears in her eyes. Jack and Jill's daddy did not fall down and break his crown, but he died just the same.

Jack says their mother told them not to switch on the television on Wednesday night. They didn't know why or what to think, but it was midnight, and their mother wasn't home. And so they switched on the TV, saw their crying mother, saw their daddy covered with a sheet, saw the bloodied place where he was shot.

Jack is very angry, he wants the men who shot his father hurt, he wants to do it himself, but he won't, because he knows his father wouldn't have liked it. His father was Supt. Jovem Bocalbos, Makati City deputy chief of police. The 38-year-old Bocalbos served the Philippine National Police for 16 years, and was promoted just three weeks ago. After duty, he would moonlight as a passenger van driver to augment his income.

Based on initial police reports, five suspects boarded Jovem's Nissan Urvan between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 23 at the Metro Rail Transit station on Quezon Avenue. Jovem was plying the Quezon Avenue to Almar-Zabarte Road in Novaliches when the suspects, who posed as passengers, drew their handguns and announced the heist. They instructed Bocalbos to pull over and then commandeered the vehicle.

Bocalbos was ordered to sit at the middle portion of the vehicle while the designated driver of the group made a U-turn at the stoplight near Fairview Market. Witnesses say that the suspects noticed Jovem's constant shifting of position and frisked him. He was disarmed, and shot in the nape.

There is a flag-wrapped coffin at the front of the room, and the picture of a kindly-looking man. Jovem's son Jack is in jeans and a T-shirt; his face is just losing its roundness. He answers questions while scuffing his slippers on the funeral parlor's tile floor. Sometimes he stares straight ahead, other times at his feet—he does not look at me. But there is pride when he talks about the father whose place he will now take, and even if he is not ready, he says he will face it. He says he will be a nurse someday, because that was what Daddy wanted. It was what they talked about the last time he saw him alive, and he promised his father that he would buy him a car when he had the money. His father was a good man, says Jack, always thinking of them, always planning their future, always finding a way even when money was tight and tuition due, and food getting more expensive.

Witnesses say that while Jovem bled to death, the other suspects divested the passengers of their valuables and took Jovem's service firearm. The robbers drove the van to Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City and abandoned it to the 14 passengers. One of them took over the steering wheel and rushed to the M-Tech Hospital in Makati City in an attempt to save Superintendent Bocalbos.

Leonila is 70 years old, and Jovem is the fourth of her sons. All five of her boys chose to follow in their father's footsteps in the Philippine National Police, and Jovem was no exception. She smiles, Jovem was her nice boy, the one who topped his class, followed mother and never talked back. He would swing by to chat just before he went to the office. He had grand, grand dreams. "Mama," he would say, "there will come a time you will have a police-general son." She says she always watched the news, but on that one Wednesday night, a neighbor came by to ask if she had seen the news. She hadn't, and the neighbor told her what happened. She didn't ask questions, couldn't understand. It was like being strangled. She vomited, again and again, then Jovem's older brothers came, her twins, and they told her to accept it, that Jovem was gone. She smiles when she is asked how she feels, and then says calmly that she is angry. "I'd shoot his killer if I could."

Superintendent Bocalbos, Makati's new No. 2 cop, was declared dead on arrival at the hospital at around 8:45 p.m.

SPO2 Joseph Pablo Bocalbos is 42; Jovem's older brother, is one of Leonila's twins. The brothers are round-faced and big-boned, with the kindly eyes of a Santa Claus. Joseph, Pablo, or Paul, was on shift in Pasig when he got word of his younger brother's death. He was shocked, angry, but now he is philosophical about it. He is a policeman after all, and facing death is just part of the job.

Paul says they were surprised that Jovem didn't fight back. He was an officer who didn't shirk his duties, and was not afraid to fight. If it were him, says Paul, he would have struck back, even if he didn't have a chance against the five. Jovem, he says, must have thought of the passengers first.

Jovem's wife Christine arrives late at the funeral parlor from the station. She walks sobbing straight into her brother-in-law's arms. The suspects had been identified, and she has seen the man she believes shot her husband. Cristina says the man witnesses identified to have shot her husband was denying any responsibility. "The way he acts, it's as if he were blameless, *parang kung sinong mabait*." She wants to shoot him herself. He did not have to shoot her husband who was only thinking about his passengers.

She begged him not to drive the van, but he insisted, saying they needed the money. Cristina is studying nursing, the course she had stopped pursuing before she married Jovem. He had insisted she go back to school, and he supported her financially. They met in Zamboanga where he was assigned, and Cristina, smiling through tears, says it was love at first sight.

They always talked about the children, she says. "He always puts us first, always," she says. "Even If he has nothing, for as long as he could provide for us, he was happy." He refused to buy anything for himself, everything was for the children. His pay was not enough. Relationships have their ups and downs, she says, but they got through them. He was a good husband.

I'd like to ask why this happened, but I've asked that about many things that happen in this country, and there are never enough answers. Here is the high-ranking model policeman who comes to work in a pressed uniform, forced to drive a passenger van to supplement his meager salary. Here is the mother whose five sons have dedicated their lives to protecting citizens. And here is the young boy, whose voice rises indignant whenever anyone says in his presence that all policemen are corrupt.

"Not my Daddy," he says.

Here is the story of one good man—the kind of man whose story is rarely told until it is too late.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Birdwatching in the city

By Elvira Mata

BIRDERS OR BIRD WATCHERS ARE A STRANGE LOT. THEY HIKE through forests, trudge on landfills, and stroll in cemeteries armed with bins (binoculars), water and crackers. Moving slowly, they look for birds.

They wear light clothing, sensible shoes and hats. The wiser ones slather sun block all over their bodies.

They bring a field guide, a little book with loads of information on birds with corresponding pictures. Highly recommended but increasingly difficult to find is "The Guide to the Birds of the Philippines," by Robert S. Kennedy et. al., published by Oxford Press.

This is how birders do it: They see a bird (with the naked eye or with bins), they identify it, and they write it in their journal. If they can't identify the bird, they look it up in the field guide. If it's not there, they make notes, a rough sketch of the bird or even take a picture for future reference.

Beginners usually go with seasoned birders, or if they can afford it, hire a guide. Ironically enough, the renowned bird guide in the Philippines is British and his clients are foreign bird watchers.

Call of the wild

Another option is to join the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP), a fun bunch of diverse people (businessmen, teachers, students, IT professionals, even bums) brought together by the beauty of Philippine birds in their natural habitat.

To promote bird watching, WBCP conducts free monthly guided bird walks on weekends around the metropolis. Monthly destinations are posted on www.birdwatch.ph.

There are more than 570 species of birds in the Philippines and no fewer than 180 species are endemic or found only in the archipelago, according to WBCP president Mike Lu. Unfortunately, 10 are endangered, and 11 are critically endangered and in peril of extinction.

The most famous endemic species is the critically endangered Philippine Eagle.

A new bird species, the Calayan Rail, was discovered in 2004 in the Babuyan Island group between Batanes and Northern Luzon, and faces a "high risk of extinction in the wild."

Toys for birders

While most bird watchers are happy with a reasonably priced Hahn 8 x 42 binoculars, the serious birders prefer Leica or even Swarovski bins which cost between $1,500 and $ 2,500.

Another toy is the spotting scope and tripod which cost around $1,000. A telescope is a steadier instrument that allows a birder to see a bird, say, the Colasisi up close.

The Colasisi is the smallest Philippine parrot with bright green feathers, a red head and rump.

There's also "digiscoping" or taking photographs of your favorite bird using a digital camera and the scope as a telephoto lens. This is how most of the pictures on this page were taken.

Gratifying

If you plan to bird watch in North America, there is a gizmo called the National Geographic's Handheld Birds PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) which cost about $400. It is a digitized field guide with over 1,600 images of birds, and a searchable database of 867 North American bird species. It also features four hours of song and bird call audios.

There is also a birdpod, which stores strictly bird calls in a neat little package.

Bird watching "is a quest," according to WBCP, and it is a most gratifying hobby because "you set out to see birds (and) the prize you come back with can only be described as happiness."

Bird flu

If you "just watch, (and) don't catch," which is the ethical battlecry of bird watchers worldwide, you're safe.

Dennis P. Liuag, a founding member of WBCP, says that if people follow the basic rules of "staying away from sick birds; never, ever handle dead ones; or capture ones from the wild," then the danger of contracting bird flu is remote.

Arne Jensen, a Danish ornithologist, who is also a member of WBCP, has come up with a code for good birdwatching:

1. Dress to suit the weather. Wear light clothes of natural colors, preferably khaki and green. Be prepared to sweat and to get muddy. An umbrella is useful in case it rains and for sun protection. Wear a cap.

2. Bring water, sun block, food and a notebook. Pack them in a small backpack and don't leave them in the car.

3. The best time for bird watching is from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

4. Always keep your binoculars clean and dry.

5. Make as little noise as possible and speak in low voices or whisper so you don't scare the birds away.

6. Walk around slowly and make no sudden movements so you don't scare the birds away.

7. Hide in vegetation or stand next to a tree while observing the birds, so you can get a closer look.

8. Do not stay near birds' nests and never take their young or their eggs.

9. Report illegal wildlife trade to accredited institutions and NGOs like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Haribon-BirdLife.

10. Report rare and unusual birds to the Wild Bird Club Records Committee.

The WBCP has been helping the DENR in its task of collecting data for the Asian Waterbird Census, which is a part of an annual global survey of water birds.

As part of the government's educational campaign under the extensive Avian Influenza Protection Program, the Avian Influenza Task Force has been issuing warnings against the dangers of hunting and capturing migratory and other wild birds.

For more information on bird flu, visit www.da.gov.ph or www.doh.gov.ph. The Department of Health bird flu hotline is 711-6808 while the Department of Agriculture bird flu hotline is 925-9999.

(Mata, a cat lover, is an amateur bird watcher.)

Top 5 birding sites in Metro Manila

By Mike Lu

• NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (NIGS)
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Birds to see: Long-tailed shrike, Striated grassbird, Zebra dove, Black-naped oriole, Yellow-vented bulbul

Best time: 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

How to get there: Take Carlos P. Garcia Avenue and head toward Katipunan Avenue. NIGS is just behind the Sampaguita dorm and near the Balay Chancellor. Parking available.

• MANILA FILM CENTER
Pasay

Birds to see: Crested mynah, Spotted dove, Rufous night heron, Black-crowned night heron, Little egret,

Best time: 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.

How to get there: Head for the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex on Roxas Boulevard. Go up the Manila Film Center, head toward the back and birdwatch from there. Parking available.

• AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

Birds to see: Ring-necked parakeet, Barred rail, Collared kingfisher, Brown shrike, Zebra dove

Best time: Late afternoon.

How to get there: Take McKinley Road all the way to the end. The cemetery is just behind Essensa Towers. The AWM is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking available.

• HAGONOY PUMPING STATION
Taguig

Birds to see: Yellow bittern, Black bittern, White-breasted waterhen, Striated heron, Black-crowned night heron

Best time: 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

How to get there: Take C-5 and follow the jeepneys going to Hagonoy pumping station near Laguna Lake. Climb the watch tower of the pumping station for best views. You can also hire a boat.

• TAMBO MUDFLATS
Parañaque

The area has been partially destroyed, reportedly to make way for the future site of Pagcor City. There is a land mass created by mangrove called Freedom Island, declared in April as a Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Although Freedom Island is private property, you can drive to the old fish market and birdwatch from there.

Birds to see: Grey heron, Little egret, Black-winged stilt, Whiskered tern, Philippine duck

Best time: Migration season between September and March. Go early morning or when it's low tide.

How to get there: Take the Coastal Road and head toward Cavite. Turn right when you see the fish market (formerly Dampa), a row of abandoned seaside restaurants. Parking available.

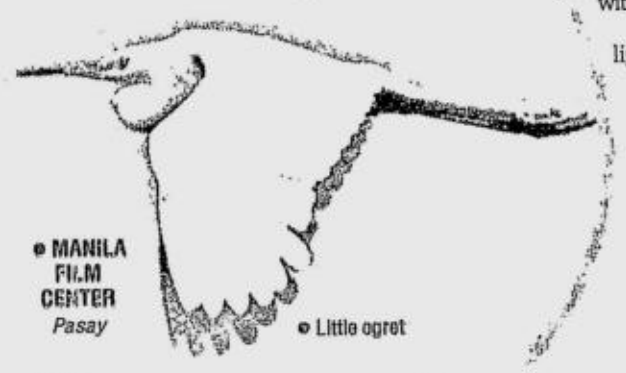
(Lu is the president of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines.)

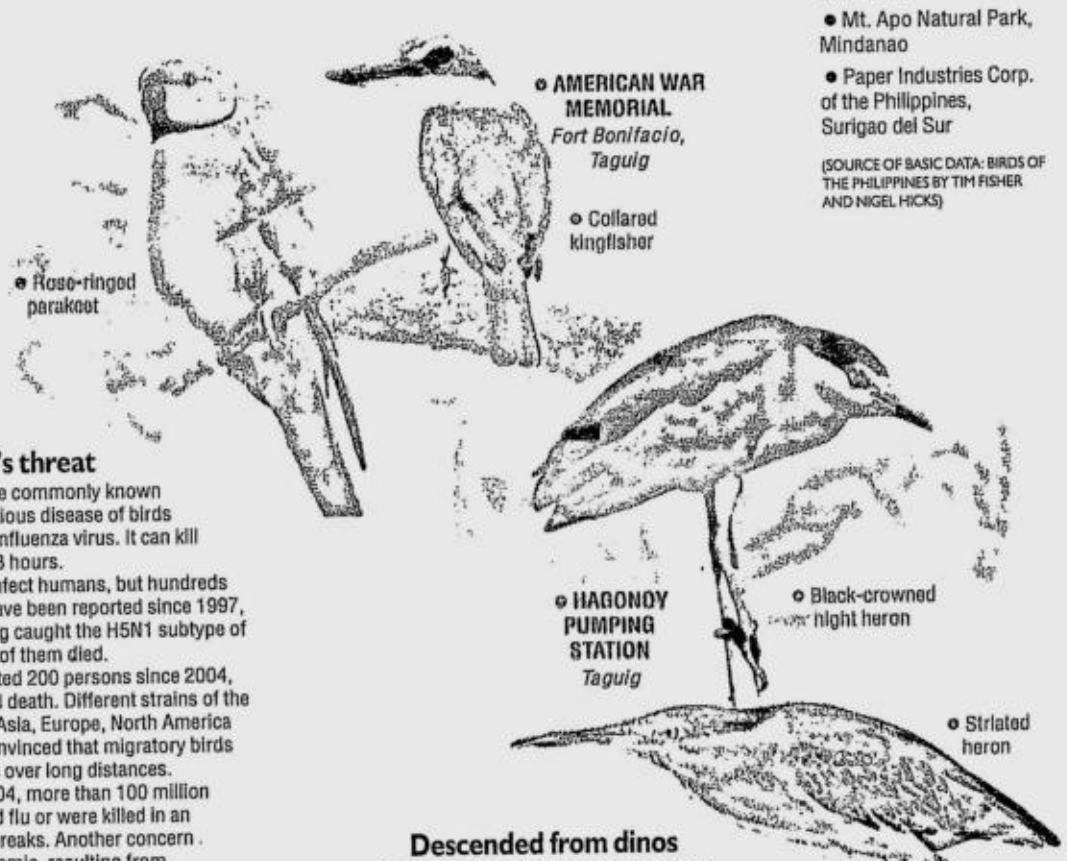
PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDSEL RAMOS, ALEX LOINAZ AND DELIA UNSON

Birdwatching sites outside Manila

- Mt. Makiling, Laguna
- Quezon National Park
- Angat Watershed, Bulacan
- Subic Freeport Zone, Zambales
- Mt. Polis, Mountain Province
- Candaba Marshes, Pampanga
- St. Paul's Underground River, Palawan
- Tubbataha Reefs National Park, Palawan
- National Park, Palawan
- Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan
- Ursula Island, Palawan
- Mt. Kanlaon, Negros
- Mt. Talinis and Lake Balinsasayao, Negros
- Tabunan, Cebu
- Olango Island, Cebu
- Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol
- Mt. Kitanglad Range, Mindanao
- Mt. Apo Natural Park, Mindanao
- Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines, Surigao del Sur

(SOURCE OF BASIC DATA: BIRDS OF THE PHILIPPINES BY TIM FISHER AND NIGEL HICKS)





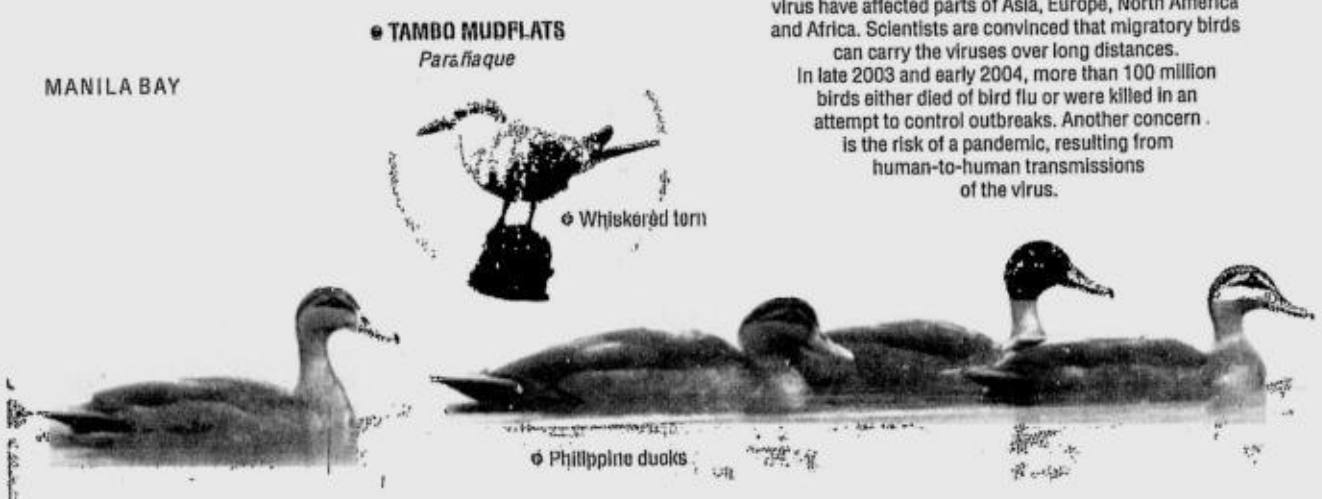
Avian flu's threat

Avian influenza, more commonly known as bird flu, is an infectious disease of birds caused by strains of the influenza virus. It can kill within 48 hours.

The viruses usually do not infect humans, but hundreds of cases of human infection have been reported since 1997, when 18 persons in Hong Kong caught the H5N1 subtype of the virus. Six of them died.

The H5N1 subtype has infected 200 persons since 2004, resulting in severe disease and death. Different strains of the virus have affected parts of Asia, Europe, North America and Africa. Scientists are convinced that migratory birds can carry the viruses over long distances.

In late 2003 and early 2004, more than 100 million birds either died of bird flu or were killed in an attempt to control outbreaks. Another concern is the risk of a pandemic, resulting from human-to-human transmissions of the virus.



Descended from dinos

Most scientists studying the ancestry of birds agree that dinosaurs, particularly small theropods, are the "grandparents" of present-day birds like parrots and pigeons.

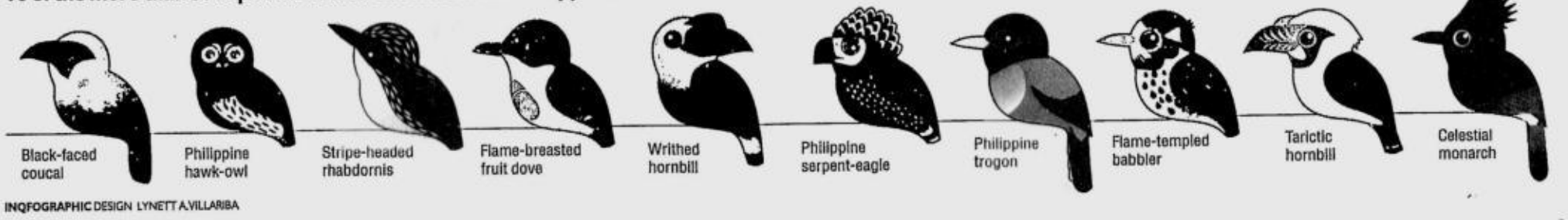
Thomas Huxley, one of Charles Darwin's followers and staunch defenders of his theory of natural selection, first had the idea when he noticed that certain bones found in both birds and dinosaurs were similar.

In the late 1960s, John Ostrom from Yale University also noted 22 features in the skeletons of meat-eating theropod dinosaurs could be also found in birds.

BY CYRIL BONABENTE AND KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH

10 of the more than 570 species of birds endemic to the Philippines

SOURCE: J.M. VILLASPER AND WILD BIRD CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES



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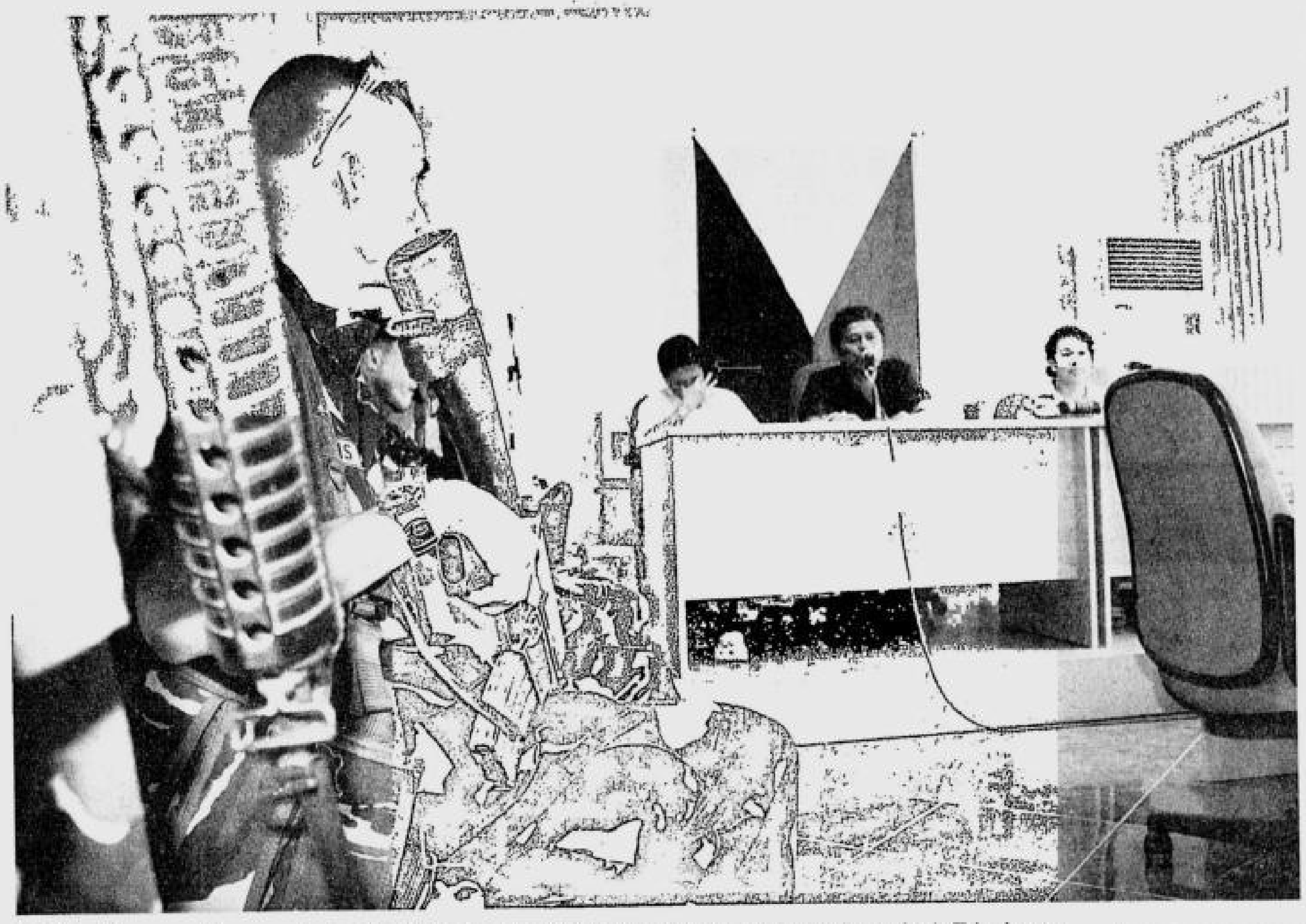
MNLF leader tagged in kidnap of 4



ARMY soldiers guard the new set of provincial board of canvassers inside the provincial capitol complex in Tubod town during resumption of the counting of votes. The canvassing had been delayed when supporters of the Dimaporo clan stopped the board from counting votes as the results showed an opposition candidate winning. RICHEL UMEL/INQUIRER MINDANAO

COTABATO CITY—POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE identified an alleged commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) as behind Thursday's abduction of German treasure hunter Thomas Wallraf and his three Filipino companions in Pikit, North Cotabato.

The MNLF, headed by Nur Misuari, fought for Moro self-determination for nearly 30 years before signing a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio, Central Mindanao police chief, said charges were now being prepared against Datukan Samad and nine of his men.

Serapio described Samad's group as "MNLF lost command" adding that it was also involved in cattle rustling, extortion and robbery.

He said Samad and his group were identified by civilian witnesses as responsible for the abduction of Wallraf, 44, a native of Cologne, Germany, and his companions at about 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Wallraf and his companions came from Davao City and were on their way here to talk to a man claiming to be selling nickel babbit, an alloy prized by treasure hunters for reportedly commanding high prices in the black market, when abducted in Barangay Batolawan in Pikit.

Serapio said the witnesses also saw the suspects tie Wallraf before the victims were taken for a long walk from barangays Balabuk and Balongis in Pikit to Mabundas in the neighboring town of Pagalungan in Maguindanao.

The kidnappers were forced to release Wallraf, his Filipino-American wife May Sharon Jackson, Consuela San Juan and Diego Delfin after they were intercepted by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas at about 3 p.m. of the same day.

The rebels, acting on orders of its chair Murad Ebrahim, even fired a rocket propelled grenade when the kidnappers initially refused to release the victims, according to Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson.

Pagalungan Vice Mayor Borodin Matalam attributed the recovery of the hostages to the "spontaneous involvement" of various sectors. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Resumption of Lanao Norte canvass gives added votes to Dimaporo bet

TUBOD, LANAO DEL NORTE—THE congressional race in Lanao del Norte's first district suddenly experienced a turnaround when votes contained in the alleged tampered certificates of canvass (CoCs) from three towns made it into the official count.

From being the third contender, outgoing Lanao del Norte governor Imelda Dimaporo of Lakas-CMD now leads the race by over 7,000 votes over earlier runaway winner, Iligan city councilor Vicente Belmonte of the Genuine Opposition (GO).

Before the canvass, Belmonte was leading in the five-way race by more than 17,000 votes.

The canvassing occurred as the new set of provincial board of canvassers (PBoC) was able to enter the canvassing site after a two-day standoff with protesters who barricaded the site.

The new PBoC is composed of Bukidnon provincial election supervisor (PES) Lordino Salvaña, Camiguin PES Ma. Dulce Cuevas-Banzon and Comelec regional lawyer Gina Luna Zayas.

The PBoC began opening the CoCs from Maigo, Bacolod and Kauswagan around 1:30 p.m. amid tight security outside the Sangguniang Panlalawigan session hall.

Four soldiers were also posted inside the jam-packed session hall.

Despite the objection of GO counsels, Salvaña insisted the soldiers be allowed to stay to make them feel really secure.

"All three CoCs were in their tampered state and therefore should not be canvassed," GO lawyer Arthur Abundiente said.

The ballot boxes containing the CoCs from the three towns had been forcibly opened shortly after the elections, raising suspicions its contents had also been altered.

But despite opposition, the PBoC went ahead with the canvassing.

First to be opened was that of Maigo town. The observations about "signs of tampering" led GO counsels to move for the CoC's exclusion from the canvass.

After two hours of heated legal arguments, the PBoC ruled to have the figures entered into the official count.

The same ruling was also adopted in the case of the two other CoCs.

GO pointed out that the CoCs in question contained erasures on the figures for congressional candidates Dimaporo, lawyer Angelique Badelles and Belmonte, the three forerunners in the five-way race.

They also said the figures differed from those reflected in the CoCs given to the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the Liberal Party.

Abundiente said in the questioned CoCs, the votes for Dimaporo "tremendously increased" from 8,253 to 26,213 while the votes for Belmonte were reduced from 7,149 to 815, or 89 percent.

Meanwhile, votes for Badelles were also reduced from 7,285 to 1,185, or 84 percent.

He said in all, some 12,434 votes from both Badelles and Belmonte were shaved off and added to Dimaporo's vote tally.

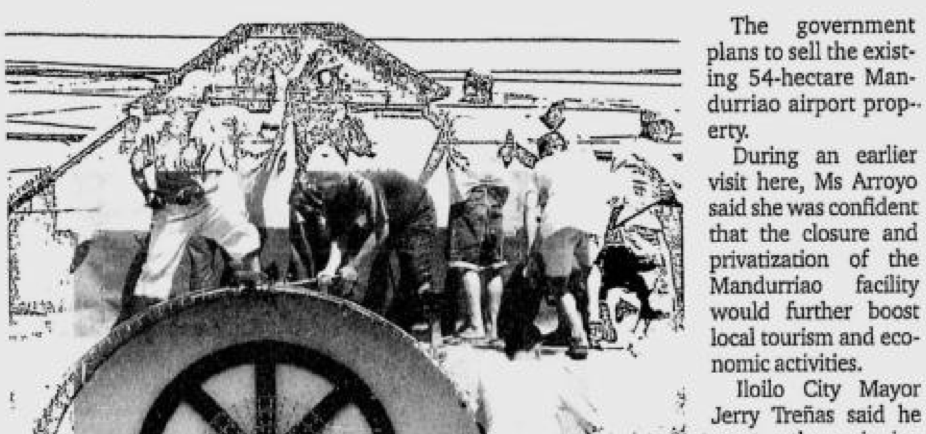
Apart from the shaved votes, Dimaporo's tally was allegedly further padded by some 5,526.

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer, Comelec officer for Northern Mindanao, said the PBoC was only tasked with canvassing the CoCs but it was ordered to "refrain from proclaiming any candidate..."

But losing congressional candidate Leo Zaragoza has called on Iliganons to "show people power" to denounce the actions of the PBoC in canvassing the CoCs in question. *Inquirer Mindanao*

New Iloilo Airport to open June 13 after delay of more than a month

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas



A FACILITY at the airport owned by a local publisher is demolished to give way to offices for the New Iloilo Airport. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

ILOILO CITY—THE New Iloilo Airport would have its first commercial flight and its inauguration on June 13.

Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, said Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza has cleared the airport so it could start operations.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to attend the airport's inauguration, Coscolluela said over radio station dyFM. The inauguration and opening of the New Iloilo Airport had long been delayed.

Ms Arroyo reportedly scheduled the opening of the airport last April 16 but with the First Gentleman undergoing a critical heart operation, she cancelled her Iloilo trip.

Bessi Cebuano, a staff from the Air Transportation Office (ATO), said airline companies have started to transfer some of their facilities from the existing Iloilo Airport at Mandurriao district in this city to the New Iloilo Airport property.

Cebuano said ATO personnel and offices would start to transfer on June 7.

Arturo Valero, National Economic Development Authority regional director, said the new airport would serve as the gateway to the Visayas of air travelers in the country and worldwide. "The transfer will be a big boost to the business sector," Valero said.

The government plans to sell the existing 54-hectare Mandurriao airport property.

During an earlier visit here, Ms Arroyo said she was confident that the closure and privatization of the Mandurriao facility would further boost local tourism and economic activities.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said he wants the winning bidder to consider either of these projects: develop the property into a theme park or build a 5,000-seat convention center or establish a hospital or set up an information technology (IT) park for business process outsourcing to encourage call center companies to invest here.

The new airport has a runway of 2.5 kilometers long and 45 meters wide, a passenger terminal with 12,000 square meters of space, and a 1,281-square meter cargo terminal. The airport can accommodate six aircraft simultaneously parking at a time.

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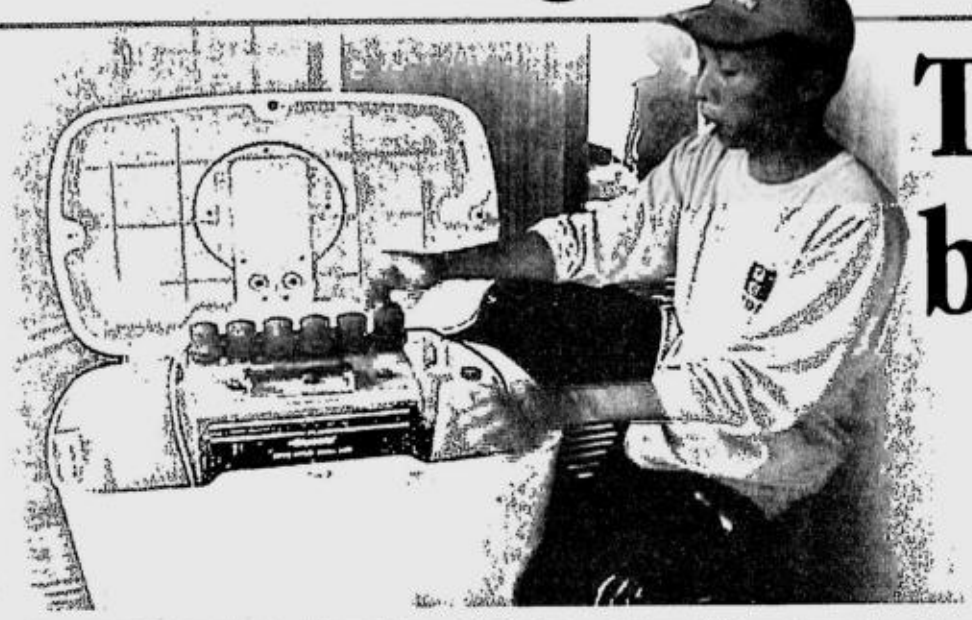


TECHNICIAN Aquiliano Villarin of the Solar Power Technology Support project in Zamboanga del Norte has requested for battery plates for the solar power system a year ago but he has yet to see his request granted. BERT LAPUT

They'd rather go back to darkness

By Bert Laput
Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte

THREE YEARS AGO, THEY were eager to experience how it feels to have an electric lamp. And their wishes were granted.

Residents of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, are recipients of the Solar Power Technology Support (SPOTS) project jointly funded by the Philippine and Spanish governments and personally launched by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Today, almost all of the beneficiaries want to return their solar power system to the government because they could no longer afford to pay P170 per month to their electric cooperative.

Benjamin Baynosa, village chief of Patagan, said that aside from the "*bug-at ra kaayo nga binulang bayad* (too heavy monthly pay)," their cooperative is also spending huge amount to non-essential projects, like the construction of a two-story cooperative building that only a few people use.

"It would have been a consolation if our solar power units can be adequately maintained, but it is not. Our technician had a request for plates for the batteries, but it is already a year and nothing happened," Baynosa stressed.

Asked if the solar power project has an impact on their lives, Baynosa said: "It's really a help because, for one, our children no longer use kerosene lamp when they study at night."

But he quickly added that with the amount each beneficiary family has to pay, "we feel it is better to go back to kerosene lamp."

Complaints

And they have reasons to complain. After all, SPOTS was given to this community and four other neighboring barangays practically for free. On Dec. 6, 2004, the President arrived in the village and launched the project that was hoped to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the people.

The SPOTS is jointly funded by the Philippine and Spanish governments and implemented through the Department of Agrarian Reform's agrarian reform communities.

DAR personnel also organized the beneficiaries into a cooperative for a systematic way of maintaining the project. Until now, they remain the brains of the cooperative.

Baynosa said that more than a hundred of Patagan's 224 families availed themselves of the SPOTS, as well as the primary school and a store run by a local cooperative. A couple of street lights is powered by the SPOTS.

But he said that practically all of the project beneficiaries now want to return the solar power system to the government because their lives were getting difficult.

"The P170 could already mean rice or dried fish or milk for the children," Baynosa said.

Most of Patagan's 1,600 residents depend on coconut, corn, banana and cassava. "Many of my people here eat only once a day," the barangay chair added.

But Joelita Caayon-Limbaga, the municipal agrarian reform officer, sees another thing. "The problem is not money, it is values."

Limbaga said that of the four villages—Sirongan, Suisayan, Pangandao and Patagan—that has the SPOTS project, only Patagan beneficiaries are complaining.

Gambling

"And yet we know that a lot of the residents in Patagan are spending daily to bet on *swertres* (illegal numbers game)," Limbaga said. "I think they can pay if they really want to pay."

She, however, could not explain why nothing had happened to the request for battery plates.

"Who said that? They should request to the cooperative, not to us," she said.

The cooperative, which has members in five barangays, including Patagan, is now headed by Sotero Catipay, the barangay chair of Sirongan.

But Baynosa said it seems useless to talk with the officials of the cooperative because they have other priorities in mind.

"We know that the cooperative is earning because of our monthly payment, including the P25,000 a year that the barangay government has to pay to the cooperative for the street lights and the school, yet they are spending it on other non-essential projects," Baynosa said.

He claimed that the cooperative was used as a "lending institution" and, once in a while, invests in small livelihood projects that barely made an impact.

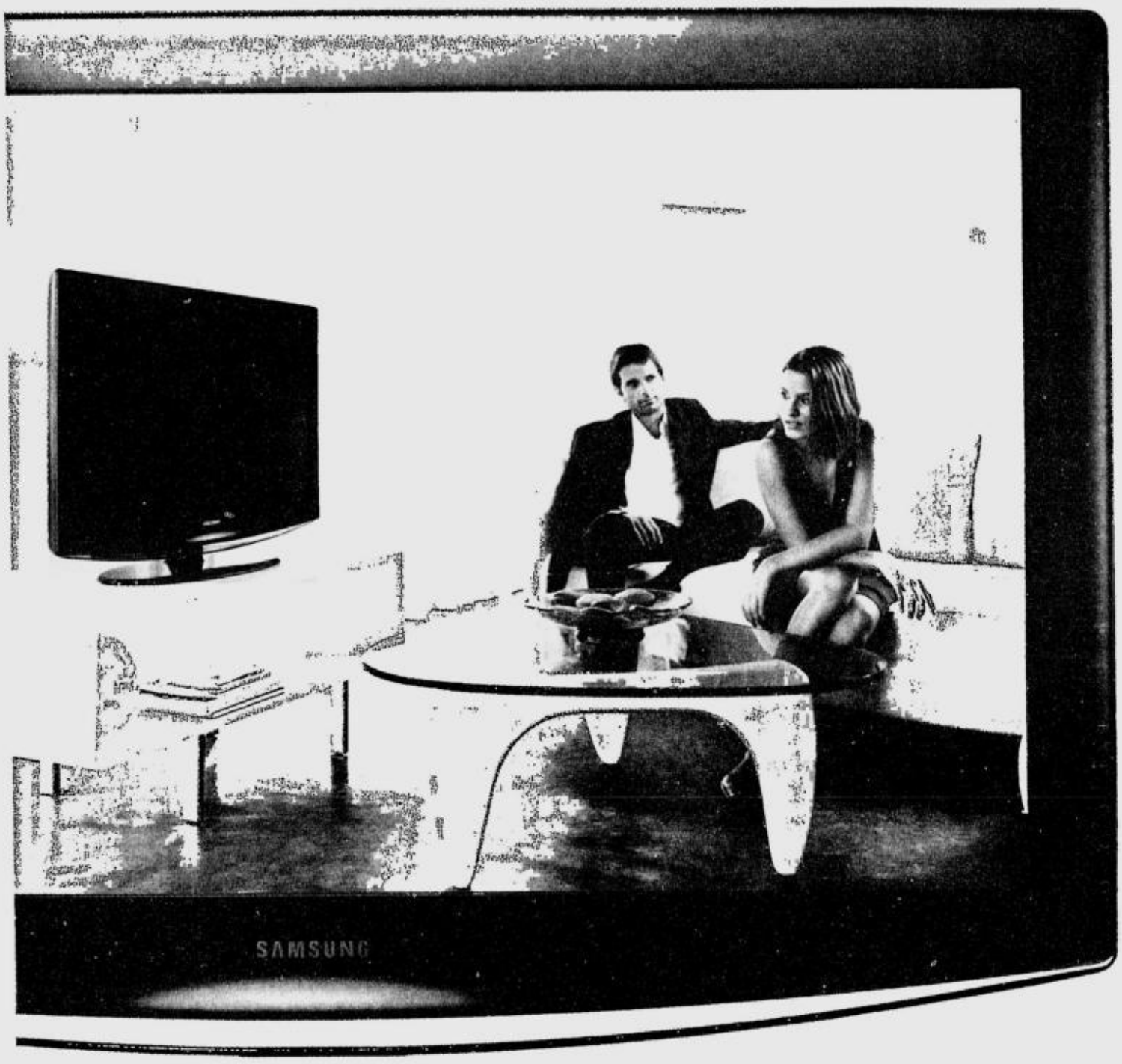
"There was one time when they were giving chicks to beneficiaries, but they all died," Baynosa said.

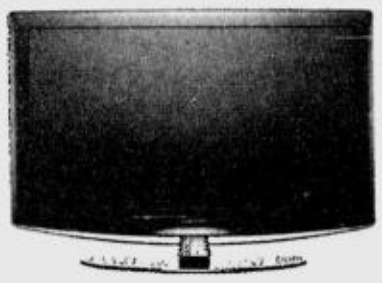
Aquiliano Villarin, a SPOTS technician, said four beneficiaries have stopped using the solar power system so it is no longer functioning.

He said he had requested the replacement of worn-out plates of the batteries, but it was almost a year now and the cooperative had yet to approve the request.

He added that most of the functioning solar power units have reduced energy because some of plates in their batteries were already destroyed.

When the SPOTS project started, each household used four electric lamps and had enough power for one appliance. Now, most residents use only two lamps, which they have to turn off at 10 p.m. because the batteries are already drained by that time.





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East Visayas lacks 1,500 classrooms, 400 teachers

By Vicente S. Labro and Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTment of Education regional office here seems to be unfazed by the recurring problems it faces with the opening of classes.

About 660,000 pupils and 251,500 high school students are expected to troop during Monday's opening of classes to the different public elementary and secondary schools in Eastern Visayas alone.

With the increase in enrollment, Eastern Visayas would have a shortage of 1,095 classrooms in public secondary schools and 451 classrooms in public elementary schools, said Rebecca Ragrag, education regional information officer.

Ragrag also said there is a need for 143,357 additional chairs and desks in both school levels.

However, she said the shortage in classroom and furniture would not affect classes.

Two shifts

Ragrag recalled that the situation has always been like this every opening of classes but these problems eventually are gradually addressed.

She said the DepEd has adopted the double shift strategy, which meant holding morning and afternoon classes in the same classroom, to solve the problem. "In fact, Manila now is implementing triple shift," Ragrag added.

While the DepEd had been constructing school buildings and pieces of furniture, she also urged the local government officials to help alleviate the situation.

Eastern Visayas also needs over 400 new teachers to meet the deficiency in the number of teachers in both the elementary and secondary levels, Ragrag said.

However, the DepEd could not hire additional teachers due to lack of funds, she said.

More teachers

"That is why our director, Sol Matugas, is appealing to our congressmen and even the governors to help us address this problem," she told the INQUIRER.

Based on the records of the planning division of the regional DepEd, 88 new teachers are needed in the elementary division while 326 more for the secondary level.

Currently, the region has about 21,105 teachers spread among the 3,585 public elementary schools and out of the 382 public secondary schools in the region, 6,298 are teaching.

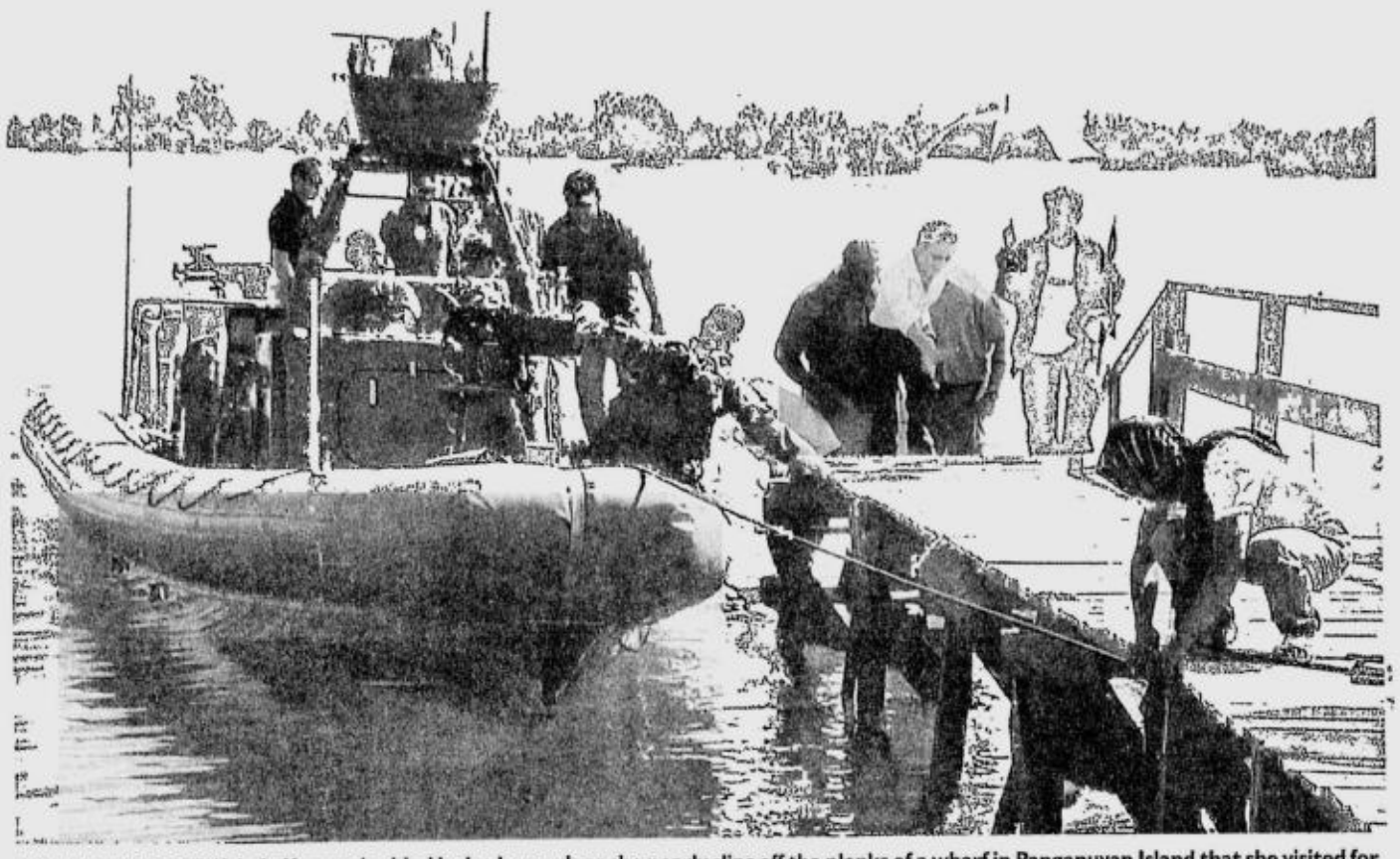
Ragrag said the department expects a one percent increase in enrollment in both levels.

Last school year, there were 656,036 students in the elementary (Grade 1 to Grade 6) level while there were about 249,008 students in the secondary level (first to fourth years) in the region.

Due to lack of teachers, some teachers handle more than 40 students, which is the ideal ratio.

Early this month, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus issued DepEd Order No. 32 which urged, among others, all public schools in the country to have just 40 students to "keep the learning process more manageable."

Some schools are also facing lack of classrooms as a result of the use of these rooms as shelters for evacuees from calamities and conflicts.



US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney is aided by bodyguards as she nearly slips off the planks of a wharf in Pangapuyan Island that she visited for a US project. In a later interview, Kenney said she could not contain her excitement at seeing the place's white sand beach and clear waters.
JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

US envoy awed by island's cleanliness

PANGAPUYAN ISLAND, ZAMboanga City—The sight of the island's white sands and the surrounding clean sea water almost made United States Ambassador Kristie Kenney fall off as she was disembarking the US Navy's rubber boat on Friday.

Kenney later admitted she could not contain her excitement when she saw the island's beaches and the unmolested waters.

Kenney, who arrived in the city Thursday for the opening of the joint RP-US Naval exercises, made the side trip to this island to visit a US-funded project that provided energy to the residents.

"It's spectacular, it's a very wonderful place," Kenney said as she walked the half-kilometer paved road from the mini-wharf to the cluster of dilapidated houses on stilts.

Gift of Koran

Kenney said she was impressed by the warm reception she got from the villagers.

When she arrived here, Imam Hadji Bashier Abdilla, the island's cleric, parted away with one of his precious possessions, the English translation of the Koran.

He gave Kenney his copy of Islam's holy book.

"We want to show her how grateful our community is because of their help and support, it's about time that we also give her something," Abdilla said.

While she expressed happiness over the gesture, Kenney said what impressed her most was the villagers' high regard for environmental protection.

Underneath the houses, Kenney noticed abundant marine life that included shellfish, sea cucumbers and starfish.

"The water is clean and I couldn't be happier here today," Kenney said noting the pristine water.

Krisna Abdulla, a 36-year-old mother, later told the INQUIRER that it has become the habit of the villagers to clean their surroundings.

Habit

"With or without visitors, we keep our place clean," she said.

Abdulla also boasted about villagers not knowing what a mosquito bite feels like.

Bel-Amin Amiril, a teacher, said he, too, teaches the children about the importance of preserving the island's natural resources.

"Every morning we do not just clean the school building here. I (also) encourage them to clean the coastal areas," Amiril said.

Cecilia Rodriguez, Amore's communications coordinator, said the villagers knew how important the preservation of the resources is "because this is where they get their food and livelihood."

Kenney also said she was happy that the residents of the island knew how to care for other things.

Citing the solar panels that provided power to the island's 30 households, Kenney said these remained working after more than two years.

US program

The solar panels were built on Oct. 17, 2004, under the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy program (Amore), a joint venture between the Department of Energy, energy firm Mirant Philippines and the US Aid for International Development.

"This is one of the best experiences I ever had; it's a real honor for me with the Imam. I was given a book, I was welcomed to a home of a family, met them, it's a kind of experience that only happens in the Philippines," Kenney told the community before sailing off for the city.

She flew back to Manila on the same day. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Gov't assures veggie farmers of access to Metro markets

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province's vegetable farmers met with guarded optimism the government's efforts to provide them direct access to wholesale markets in Metro Manila.

Officials of the Benguet Farmers Federation Inc. (BFFI) welcomed the Department of Agriculture's opening of 19 *bagsakan* (drop off) areas in Metro Manila but they said the success of a steady vegetable supply still relied on the availability of buyers.

The BFFI, the province's biggest farmers' group, joined Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap in welcoming the DA's north Luzon food caravan that brought a 10-vehicle convoy of vegetables to the Commonwealth market in Quezon City on Friday.

Aside from the BFFI, the caravan included members of the Benguet Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative, Mt. Province Farmers Federation Inc., Ifugao Farmers Federation, Benguet Traders and Truckers Association, Marketing Cooperative of Benguet Farmers, and Benguet State University.

Yap said the food caravan was a demonstration of how farmers and fishermen could directly link their products to the *bagsakan* areas without passing through layers of middlemen.

"Through this event, small agricultural stakeholders would learn that they can earn and sell more while providing consumers with fresh and quality vegetables," he said.

Yap said the presence of *bagsakan* areas would enable farmers to supply vegetables directly to the barangays, through the Barangay Food Terminal, and gain more.

"We have identified the producers and *bagsakan* centers. The challenge is for the farmers to assure supply and for the government to protect the link between the farmers and the market," he said.

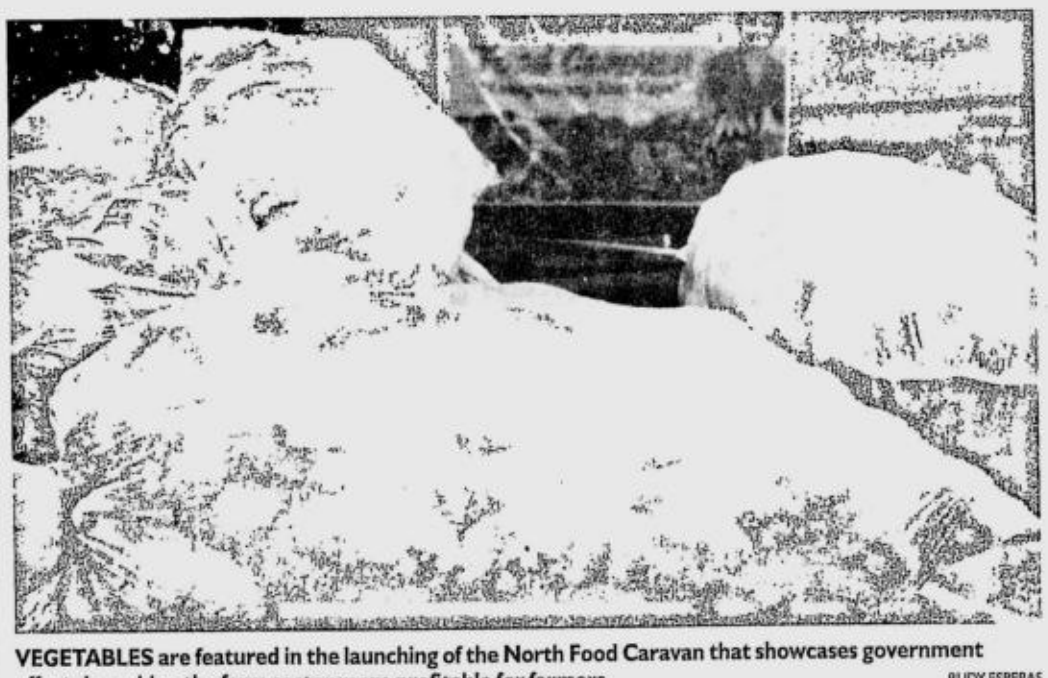
Yap noted the market potential of more than 1.5 million tons of vegetables that are hauled daily from Benguet to Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon.

But Loreto Buyaan, BFFI public relations officer, said the province's farmers wanted an assurance from the government there would be buyers at the *bagsakan* areas.

"There would be no problem as to supply. But there must always be buyers to ensure the continuity of the program," he told the INQUIRER.

Buyaan lauded the DA's innovations to empower the farmers as direct sellers through the programs Huwarang Palengke (model market), Barangay Food Terminal and Bagsakan sa Palengke (drop-off center at the market).

But he said the normal vegetable trading system in Metro Manila must also be reviewed so buyers would flock to the *bagsakan* areas. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



VEGETABLES are featured in the launching of the North Food Caravan that showcases government efforts in making the farm sector more profitable for farmers.
RUDY ESPERAS

2 more Laguna kidnappers arrested

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Police arrested two other members of the kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) syndicate that abducted a scion of a wealthy family in Majayjay, Laguna during a follow-up operation in Real, Quezon on Friday, a police official said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., Calabarzon police director, said arrested suspects July Peneverde and Rolando Alarma were among the eight armed men who seized businesswoman Gina Brosas in Majayjay town last Wednesday night.

The suspects were said to be members of the Lagalag KFR Gang that preys on affluent businessmen in Laguna and nearby provinces in the Calabarzon region.

Radovan said the two were arrested by operatives of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) who raided the group's suspected hideout in Barangay Llavac, Real town at around 5:30 p.m. Friday.

In another operation, RSOG agents also recovered the blue Hyundai Grace (XAM 389), a smuggled original right-hand drive vehicle, that the suspects used in kidnapping Brosas.

Radovan said they also had put a certain Corsino Octavio, owner of the house in Famy that the suspects used, under investigation.

On Thursday, RSOG operatives rescued Brosas, 32, from her abductors in rescue operations from the suspects' safehouse in Barangay Manaol, Nagcarlan.

Killed during the operation was alleged gang leader Jacinto Peneverde and Rolando Lubi Jr., both residents of Siniloan, Laguna.

Brosas' kidnappers initially demanded P5 million in ransom. Radovan said the ransom demand was lowered to P3 million. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

ROUNDUP

2,000 get medical service

POLOMOLOK, South Cotabato—More than 2,000 poor patients from five municipalities in South Cotabato and Sarangani benefited from the five-day medical mission conducted by the Philippine Medical Society of Florida. The mission, which ran from May 28 to June 1, was assisted by Dole Philippines. Elsie Barnes, a Filipino-American doctor who joined the mission, said they served an average of 400 minor medical and dental cases daily. Dr. Eva Hormigos, medical director of Howard Hubbard Memorial Hospital here, said the medical mission was a big help to the residents of the two provinces who could barely afford medical services.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

2 killed, 13 hurt in collision

BALANGA CITY—Two men were killed while 13 others were hurt on Friday when a Metro Manila-bound bus collided with a delivery truck in Pilar, Bataan. Killed were Filbert Essel, truck driver; and his helper, Gaspar Guerrero. The truck was on its way to Limay town to deliver metal toolboxes, reports said. Reports said the Bataan Transit bus developed mechanical trouble and swerved to the opposite lane where it hit the oncoming truck at about 8 a.m. at the Barangay Ala-uli junction in Pilar. The injured—11 bus passengers and two men aboard a Mitsubishi L-300 van escorting the delivery truck—were taken to the Bataan General Hospital here.
Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon

Dynamite sticks seized in Comelec Baguio

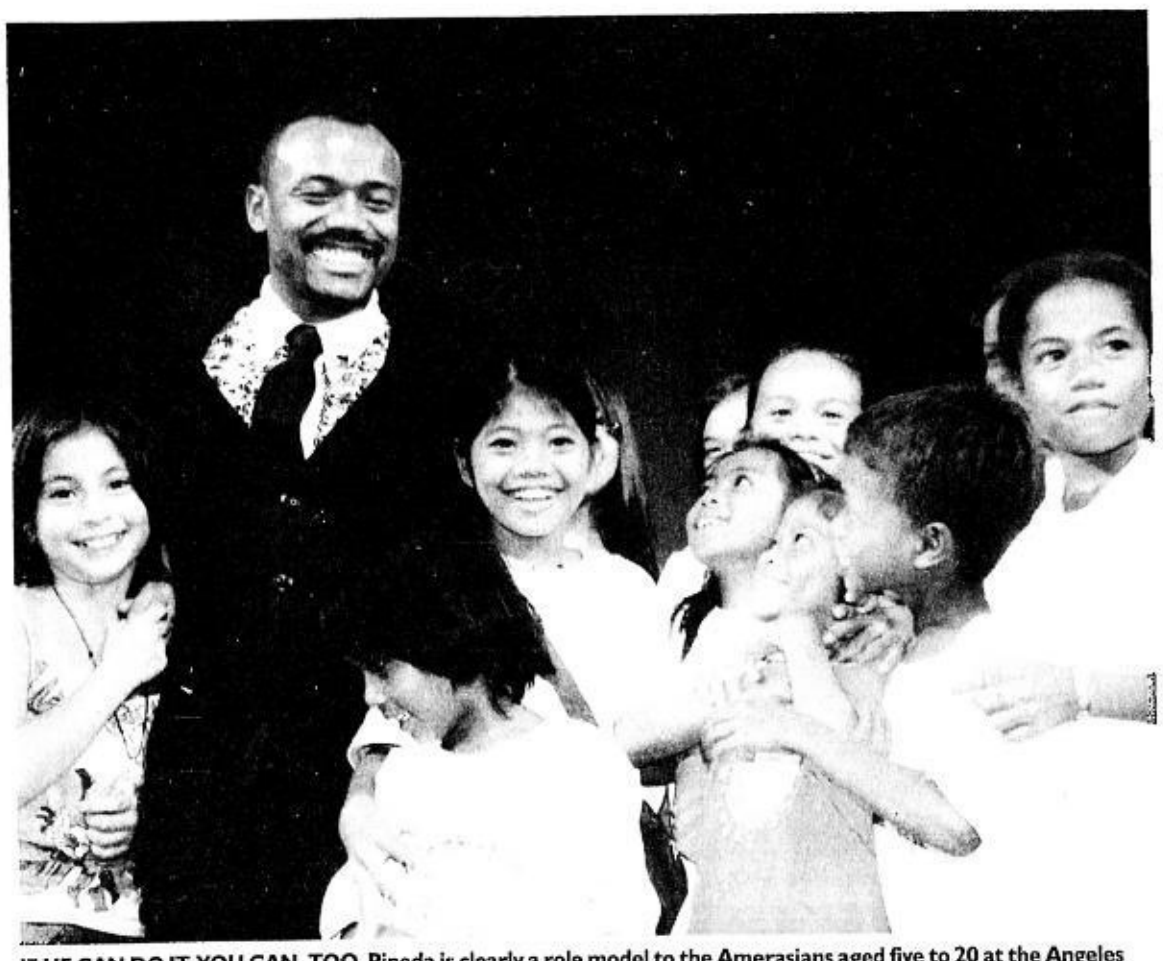
BAGUIO CITY—Dionisio Oya, an election officer of the Commission on Elections in the Cordillera, was caught selling four boxes of dynamite, four boxes of blasting caps and rolls of detonation fuses to a police asset shortly before Wednesday noon right in the Comelec compound on Governor Pack Road here. Oya is now confined at the Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart after he twisted his leg to avoid the entrapment operation. His accomplice, Eugenio Diego, was detained Thursday afternoon at the city jail. Senior Supt. Moises Guevarra, Baguio police chief, said Oya and Diego would be charged with violation of the Omnibus Election Code as well as for illegal possession of explosives. Police said the explosives were to be used for small-scale mining operations in the Cordillera. The cache, which came from Limay, Bataan, weighed more than 100 kilos and had a street value of about P104,000, police said.
Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Seminars for farmers in Bay, Laguna

LIVESTOCK farmers of Laguna will be treated to seminars on hog raising, poultry raising, aquaculture management, game fowl breeding, hog genetics and animal health products on Saturday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Tara Resort in Barangay Puypuy, Bay, Laguna. Businessman Enrique "Bong" Sandoval said surprises and raffle promos await all participants.

J. Quibel; 62

TAGBILARAN CITY—Running unopposed during the May 14 elections, Mayor-elect Jaime Quibel of Antuequera town died Wednesday of cardiac arrest, a month before he could assume office. Quibel, 62, whose vice mayoral running mate and majority of the councilors running under the administration's Lakas-CMD were also elected, was on his way to a meeting on Wednesday morning when he complained of chest pains. He was rushed to the Ramiro Community Hospital in Tagbilaran City but was declared dead on arrival at 9:30 a.m. Department of the Interior and Local Government provincial director Rustica Mascariñas said the vice mayor elect, Cecilia Rebosura, will be sworn in as town mayor on July 1. The DILG provincial head said elected first councilor Jose Mario Pahang (Lakas) will assume as vice mayor. The vacancy in the incoming municipal council will be filled in by a member of the Lakas-CMD, it being the political party of Pahang, Mascariñas added.
Kit Bagaipo, Inquirer Visayas



IF HE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN, TOO. Pineda is clearly a role model to the Amerasians aged five to 20 at the Angeles University Foundation in his native Pampanga. TONETTE OREJAS

Black Eyed Pea plays life coach to Amerasians

From page A1

who have been abandoned by their US servicemen-fathers.

"*Samasan yu ing pamag-aral yu* (You should do well in your studies)," Pineda told the youngsters in Angeles City, just outside Clark air field—the largest American air base in the Pacific before the US-Philippine bases treaty ended in 1991.

He spoke Kapampangan so fluently it was hard to believe he had been away for 18 years. The 32-year-old rock star was himself an abandoned Amerasian child, who eventually made it to the United States with the help of a charitable foundation and sponsor.

"Yes, Kuya Allan! We love you, Kuya Allan!" 50 or so young American-Filipinos, aged five to 20, chorused back during a forum held at the Angeles University Foundation here on Friday.

Still shaking off jet lag from Thursday's flight from Los Angeles, Pineda easily gave in to their requests, singing parts of his group's chart-busting songs. He also accommodated all the children who wanted to be photographed with him.

Dressed in a black suit and sneakers, Pineda made it known he remained a Filipino at heart.

Aside from talking to the Amerasian children, he has also promised to do two more tasks: Hold a benefit concert, possibly in December this year, after the Black Eyed Peas' "Black Blue & You World Tour" in 13 countries, and work as endorser for the educational scholarship program of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines (PSBP) among Filipino-Americans in the United States.

All these he would do, he told the INQUIRER, through the PeaPod Foundation, the charity arm of the Black Eyed Peas.

He earlier did benefit concerts for landslide victims in Leyte and tsunami victims in Indonesia.

Good model

Pineda is here on the invitation of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation.

Erlinda de Ungria-Tagle, PSBP executive director, said one of their coordinators called Pineda about three months ago to ask him if he would be interested in helping find ways to send more kids to school.

"He gave a casual 'yes' and we thought he was not so interested. So we did not take him seriously. Then he called us last month to say he was really coming over and we were shocked by his sense of generosity," Tagle told the INQUIRER.

Not many people know it, but Pineda and the foundation go a long way back.

"Without Pearl S. Buck, my parents and adopted parents, I would not have had the opportunities to go up in life," Pineda said during the forum.

Pineda's mother, Cristina, 52, revealed in the forum that it was PSBP that found her son a "sponsor" in the person of California-based lawyer Joe Ben Hedgens when he was two and a half years old.

Pineda grew up just outside Clark field with six half-brothers and sisters. He never knew his real father. But in 1989, when Pineda was 14 years old, Hedgens took him to Los Angeles and supported his studies there, his mother related.

Success owes Pearl Buck

"It is amazing to be back... I owe majority of that success to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation," Pineda told his audience, who were completely taken by his warm smile and lack of celebrity airs.

As a young boy, Pineda survived the hard life by working in Sapang Bato, a farming village just outside the iron fence of what was then Clark Air Base, an American military base.

His mother remembers how Pineda endured the discrimination and teasing that went with growing up Amerasian.

"When he was small our neighbors called him 'nigger.' I advised him to just ignore the teasing," Cristina said.

She managed to raise him by planting *gabi* (yams) and vegetables, selling native snacks and tending a small grocery store. Pineda's grandmother, Virginia, helped raise him.

At five years old, Pineda was already helping pack the yams in sacks or repack charcoal in small plastic bags. Then he would deliver these to customers at the Pampang market in Angeles City.

After classes and on weekends, Pineda sold *suman* and *palitaw* (rice cakes) in the village. Cristina gave him P2 for every P20 of sales.

His foundation sponsor, Hedgens, would also send Pineda money through a PSBP-managed savings account so he could stay in school. The money went to books, uniforms, school projects and his daily allowance. Pineda received gifts from Hedgens every Christmas.

Pineda's search for his biological father has been futile. But Cristina said her son has never been resentful.

He said he regards Hedgens like his true father. Up to now, Hedgens never fails to invite him to family occasions, he said.

Talent, advice

At the forum, Regina Diaz, who also has an African-American father, dedicated the song "I'll Be There" to Pineda, which left him teary eyed. Three groups took turns dancing.

Pineda said he would take them in as front acts for the benefit concert.

The children peppered him with all sorts of questions.

Why did his band name itself Black Eyed Peas? To this query by Eugene Nacine Pineda said: "Because it is food for the soul."

In answer to another question by Diaz, he said the group started when he and William James Adams Jr. (or Will.i.am) "started dancing together and became best friends and hit it big in 1995."

How he got to the United States, he said, was a result of constant communication with Hedgens.

Pineda's advice to them: "Write your sponsor. Tell them what's happening to you. Study hard. Be enthusiastic."

Replying to Christopher Villaruz, Pineda said he overcame difficulties by "surrounding myself with good friends, staying close to family, studying hard, praying a lot."

"I did not take no for an answer," Pineda said. Success, according to him, "took a lot of hard work."

"We practiced every day, bonded by friendship and love for music. We kept performing in colleges, doing benefit concerts," he said.

Pineda promised to find ways to support his fellow American-Filipinos.

"I am finding ways to support my Amerasian brothers and sisters. Don't be ashamed to ask me how I could help. I will be one of your endorsers," he said, drawing the loudest applause that night.

His being an Amerasian, he said, "did not matter to me."

He considers the Philippines his home because the Kapampangans are the "best cooks," Christmas in the country is great and it is where his family is.

Filipino values

"All I know is that I am a Filipino. And I live Filipino values. And they received me for who I am," Pineda said.

He's a kind boy, his mother said.

"He's like coming full circle. He's been helped and he's been helping others," Tagle added.

What is "amazing" in Pineda, Tagle said, is despite the distance, ties with his mother and relatives in the Philippines remained strong.

In the program, Dr. Leticia Yap, PSBP local board member, called Pineda a "very good model" and threw the Amerasians a challenge.

"*Kung kaya ni* Allan, *kaya nyo rin* (If Allan made it, you too can make it)."

SC stand vs Palace hailed

From page A1

party-list representatives, and civilians Vicente Ladlad, Nathanael Santiago, Randall Echanis and Rey Claro Casambre. *(See story on Page A2.)*

Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera yesterday said her office would appeal the ruling.

Unconstitutional

In the cases involving EO 464, the CPR policy and Proclamation 1017, "the Supreme Court asserted its independence by declaring the orders unconstitutional," the TI report said.

It noted that the President issued EO 464 "forbidding officials to testify" before a Senate committee investigating the "Garci" tapes—alleged tapped phone conversations where Ms Arroyo allegedly instructed then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to ensure her victory in the 2004 presidential election by a million votes.

Both Ms Arroyo and Garcillano had denied wrongdoing. Various officials of the executive branch had also invoked EO 464 in ignoring invitations to testify at other congressional inquiries.

The CPR, enforced in September 2004 as Ms Arroyo faced mounting opposition rallies, "limited fundamental freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the freedom to seek redress and air dissent against abuses by the government," the TI report said.

Proclamation 1017 "empowered the military and police to arrest people suspected of holding antigovernment views and to close businesses and industries deemed to advocate destabilization of the regime," the report said.

"Several cases illustrate political interference at the highest levels [on occasion resulting in clashes between the judiciary and the justice department], which sets a tone for the behavior of the lower courts," it said, adding:

"Events in 2004 to 2006 displayed evidence of executive encroachment on the judiciary for political reasons, rather than monetary gain."

One of many factors

But while praising the Supreme Court, the TI report counted political interference as just one of the many contributing factors to corruption in the Philippine judiciary as a whole.

It noted that:

- The courts continued to receive a meager share, or only about 0.6 percent, of the annual national budget.
- Second-level judges earned $8,987 (about P400,000) per year, less than a quarter of the pay of their counterparts in the United States, thus discouraging competent lawyers from joining the judiciary despite the many vacancies.
- There were at least two judges per 100,000 members of the population, and in 2005, municipal and regional trial courts had vacancies in the range of 17 to 52 percent.

Lacking personnel, trial courts would take five to six years on the average to decide a case, while an appeal could take another six years before being resolved, the TI report said.

In 2005, the Supreme Court said some 800,000 cases of all kinds were pending nationwide.

In the lower courts, some judges, prosecutors and law enforcers have been known to conspire and file trumped-up charges for the purpose of extortion, the report said.

These officials also earn "illicit revenues" in the grant of bail even in cases where it is not allowed by law, it added.

'Alarming'

Contrary to Secretary Gonzalez's remark on Friday that it would be "a waste of time" to appeal the Supreme Court ruling dismissing the rebellion charges against Beltran et al., Solicitor General Devanadera said a motion for consideration would be filed.

THE SUPREME COURT: "Guardian of the Constitution"

Devanadera said the DOJ had ordered her to file the motion in view of the ruling's "far-reaching and adverse consequences on the criminal justice system" and to prevent court rules from being "trampled on."

She said she was "alarmed" by the ruling because the high court had supposedly undermined the power of trial courts and her office to determine "probable cause" to prosecute.

Devanadera said the DOJ and the Makati Regional Trial Court were well within their jurisdiction to determine whether there was probable cause to prosecute the six militant lawmakers and the four civilians for their purported complicity in the coup attempt in February 2006.

She said the Supreme Court should have remanded the case back to the Makati court to determine if the case was backed with sufficient evidence. "There is a hierarchy of courts, and it is supported by jurisprudence," she said.

'Disturbing'

Devanadera said the high court's ruling was "disturbing" from the point of view of the Office of the Solicitor General.

"My office is not only the law office of the national government but also the tribune of the people. We sometimes take sides that are adverse to government agencies," she said. "If the government prosecutor cannot be allowed to determine what is probable cause, how can we prosecute cases?"

While these are "technical matters," it is important to appeal the high court's ruling, Devanadera said.

She added: "Time-honored and well-established principles on criminal law and procedure were trampled upon.

"The decision will disturb long-established principles on criminal law and procedure which are in place for the protection of both the accused and the state.

"We are constrained to move for a reconsideration of the ruling if only to preserve the stability of our criminal justice system."

Serge O happy to be wrong about forecast

From page A1

to seven of the GO candidates to win.

Though he did not give names, Osmeña most likely was thinking of the preelection surveys that showed six GO candidates as likely winners.

These are reelectionist Senators Manuel Villar and Panfilo Lacson, ex-senator Loren Legarda and Representatives Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano and Benigno Aquino III.

The same surveys said four administration candidates were likely to win: Reelectionist Senators Edgardo Angara, Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto and ex-senator Tito Sotto.

Independent candidates, reelectionist Sen. Francis Pangilinan and ex-senator Gregorio Honasan were to complete the winning 12, according to the surveys.

OSMEÑA: Expecting only 6 GO winners

Outside Magic 12

Despite his strong showing in preelection surveys, Recto is outside the winning circle at 14th place, followed by former presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor who has conceded defeat.

Osmeña had correctly predicted that administration candidates would be fighting among themselves to get into the last few places.

But he also predicted that Honasan might not win and that Zubiri and Defensor might win because of sheer "government machinery."

"I don't think Honasan might make it because the administration is going to protect the tail-enders like Tito (Sotto) and (Michael) Defensor. They'll all be cheating each other," he said.

Dark horses

Osmeña considered as "dark horses" GO candidates lawyer Aquilino Pimentel III, Sonia Roco and rebel officer Antonio Trillanes IV.

Osmeña said at the time that he would have been particularly sorry if his cousin, former senator John Osmeña and Trillanes were to lose.

But on Election Day, and despite what the early surveys showed, Osmeña already believed that Trillanes had a strong chance of winning.

"If there's anyone who is likely to squeeze through, it's Trillanes because he's going up 10 percent every week. He's rising so fast that they did not even bother to cheat him," Osmeña said.

Defying surveys

As it turned out, the detained officer charged with being one of the ring leaders of the failed July 2003 coup, defied preelection surveys and has consistently held on to 11th place in the official and unofficial tallies.

Pimentel is at 12th place, followed closely by Team Unity candidate Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Roco, a neophyte politician, managed a respectable 17th place while John Osmeña is at 20th place.

Former senator Nikki Coseteng, another GO candidate, is at 22nd place in a field of 37 candidates.

Osmeña had predicted that Cayetano and Aquino would be the likely targets of vote-shaving (*dagdag-bawas*).

Cayetano and Aquino were active in the two failed impeachment attempts against President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005 and 2006 along with Escudero, who was the House Minority Leader.

But unlike Escudero, Cayetano and Aquino had to go through legal battles to get namesake candidates disqualified.

As it turned out, the ongoing Comelec tally showed Aquino at sixth place even ahead of Angara at seventh, Cayetano at eighth, Arroyo at ninth and Honasan at 10th.

'Wholesale' cheating

Osmeña had said that in case of "wholesale cheating," which would be most obvious in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, GO candidates might lose between 600,000 to one million votes.

"If they cheat by more than a million, we'll get six (candidates). If they don't cheat, we'll get seven or more," he had said.

Osmena, who took over as campaign manager in the middle of the campaign, said GO campaign leaders had done their best to coordinate the activities of the individual candidates.

He said most of the GO candidates like Villar, Lacson, Escudero and Legarda had their own campaign staff.

"We were left with coordinating efforts and doing things that the individual candidates could not do, like commissioning a survey. I hope that helped them," he said.

Osmeña also produced omnibus TV campaign ads hitting at the Arroyo administration's supposed failure in eradicating poverty, corruption, human rights abuses and rising prices.

But he admitted that winning elections were still a matter of the individual personalities of the candidates.

Personality-based votes

"People still vote based on personalities. If this had been bloc voting, we would have a 12-0 result against Gloria," he said.

Osmeña waited until May 30, more than two weeks after the May 14 elections, to celebrate, treating the GO campaign staff at their Makati headquarters to *lechon*, *pancit*, ice cream and cake.

Osmeña, who underwent a minor heart operation during the campaign, even tasted some of the renowned Cebu *lechon*.

"It's worth it," quipped Osmeña, who will be stepping down as senator in July.

Also around to celebrate were his campaign assistants Renato Constantino Jr., George Balagtas and Adel Tamano, who served as campaign spokesperson.

Deposed president Joseph Estrada's lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, who was elected representative of Cagayan de Oro, also showed up at the afternoon party.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, one of the senior convenors of the GO coalition, dropped in but did not join the party.

Fil-Am boy top 5 in US spelling bee

From page A1

School" edition of the "Jeopardy" television quiz show, earlier made it to the circle of 15 finalists from the 286 that started in the competition last Wednesday.

The 14-year-old son of John and Jean Henares, both holders of math degrees from the University of the Philippines, qualified for the national competition by winning the regional Spelling Bee in New Haven, Connecticut, last March.

Henares' top five finish was impressive, considering that semi-finalists from across the US and other countries, including Canada and New Zealand, had come to Washington for the highly competitive annual spelling contest. A series of elimination rounds, spread over several days, eventually narrowed the field down to 15 finalists.

Henares and the other finalists were treated to a surprise visit to the White House where they met First Lady Laura Bush.

California's Evan O'Dorney, another home-schooled child who emerged as the 2007 champion, received a $35,000 prize, a $5,000 scholarship, a $2,500 savings bond and a set of reference works.

Light moments

The Associated Press' Joseph White credited Joseph for providing some light moments during the tense proceedings.

White wrote: "The first bit of humor in the finals came from Joseph Henares, who exclaimed, 'Oh, my God,' when he was given the word 'punaise.' When told it was a bedbug, the 14-year-old boy from Avon, Conn., replied, 'I like bedbug better.' His eyes grew huge when told he had spelled it without a flaw."

Joseph edged past 13-year-old Indian American Samir Patel, considered by many to be this year's favorite. Samir was eliminated in the fifth round, ending his dream of winning the spelling title that dominated the last five years of his life.

The final day, according to AP, began with 59 surviving spellers from the record 286 who started the competition Wednesday. The field was reduced to 15 finalists, but eight of them were eliminated after the initial round and two more followed in the next round.

Joseph was among the five survivors which also included Evan; 13-year-old Prateek Kohli of Westbury, N.Y.; 14-year-old Isabel Jacobson of Madison, Wis.; and Nate Gartke of Spruce Grove, Alberta, who was attempting to be the first Canadian to win the event.

Joseph misspelled "aniseikonia" (a visual defect), Prateek missed "oberek" (a Polish folk dance) and Isabel was out on "cyanophycean" (a kind of algae), the AP said.

That left only Evan and Gartke in a tense one-on-one duel. But after three more rounds, Gartke missed the medical word "coryza" by adding the letter "h" and Evan became the champion when he aced "serrefine" a noun describing small forceps.

As a finalist, eighth-grader Joseph was making only his second US prime time TV appearance. The contest was aired on the ABC television network.

His first prime time TV exposure was when he competed on a "Back to School" edition of "Jeopardy," America's popular TV quiz show. The boy, who was then 12 years old, won and received a cash prize of $10,000 in the competition that involved 15 contestants selected from more than 500 youngsters all over America.

John and Jean Henares helped Joseph to train for the Spelling Bee just as they did for the Jeopardy quiz show.

John's profession as an actuary who calculates insurance reserve liabilities and also does financial reporting was reflected in the way the couple prepared Joseph for the Jeopardy contest.

Drilling Joseph

"We drilled Joseph on how to bid ... We came up with various scenarios covering the what ifs. For example, what if you're in first place with $X, and the second and third placers have $Y and $Z, how much should your final bid be?

"We had about less than a month to prepare. So we brainstormed among ourselves what the likely 'kids' categories would be. We came up with Superheroes, recent kids' movies, what's on Disney Channel, Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network, among others.

"Then we determined which among those categories Joseph was weak at, and we did online searches on them. We also had Joseph read the latest issue of the Kids' Almanac," said John in the 2005 INQUIRER interview.

Joseph and his siblings, Marian, and John Paul, are all schooled at the family home in Avon, Connecticut, primarily by Jean, who was also an actuary before she quit to become a full-time mother. The couple have a younger daughter, Christina.

The Henares couple is part of a growing number of parents in the United States who are opting to educate their children at home. This trend has resulted in the term "home school" being accepted as a word entry in dictionaries of the English language.

Avid reader

John credits his son's success to his being an avid reader and his ability to retain knowledge and information about things that he encounters.

"His mom does a good job—and has great patience—in quizzing him in preparation for contests. But then, any other non-home schooling mom could have done just as well," he said.

He said he and his wife decided to home-school Joseph and the other children after they met a number of Catholic parents who were homeschooling their children.

"She was impressed with their dedication and their testimony of very favorable results that they experienced with their children. She observed first hand how the children functioned and behaved," said John.

When Joseph reached school age, the couple decided to give homeschooling a try.

"It hasn't been all that easy but we've managed. We are aided by a good Catholic curriculum that we get from Seton Home Study, a homeschool curriculum provider based in Virginia," he said.

In a 2006 holiday letter sent to family and friends, John and Jean described their eldest son this way: "Joseph is a somewhat reserved 13-year-old boy who enjoys chess, spelling, geography, math, reading books that are predominantly of the 'adventure' genre, and writing books of the same genre. Despite his usually reserved self, he can be an exceptionally active member on both the wide-sweeping soccer field and the tennis court, when roused.

"He is also interested in music and the arts, although he says that he 'will not pursue a musical career.' In the past, Joseph has participated in acting groups, the local church choir, and various local plays and currently is taking singing and piano lessons. He is also a fan of computer gaming, although he does what he can to keep that to a minimum. As the eldest of the four kids, he does his best to set a good example for the others, and looks forward to whatever God may have in store for him."

Joseph says he wants to be an actuary like his father.

John, who grew up in Bacolod City, worked for two years as an instructor at the math department at UP Diliman. He earned his master's in Math-Actuarial Science from the University of Connecticut. A fellow of the Society of Actuaries, John works for Genworth Financial in Windsor, Connecticut.

Lea's fan

Jean, who is from La Union province, also taught at UP after graduation and also earned her graduate degree in Math-Actuarial Science from the University of Connecticut.

Math and academics are just some of the interests of Joseph. He sings, acts and plays the piano. Joseph, Marian and John Paul are members of The Company, a children's theater program based at the University of Hartford.

Joseph, who played Linus in The Company's production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," has hopes of meeting the US-based Filipino singer Lea Salonga someday.

He also likes to watch the "Star Wars" (the reason he welcomed questions on the film series in "Jeopardy") and "Lord of the Rings" movies, play soccer and tennis and join chess tournaments, where he has won several trophies.

Other contests won

The young Henares has joined and won similar contests before, including the Geography Bee and American Math Competition. He has been the top scorer in the Connecticut Homeschool Network American Math Competition for several years.

Joseph plans to compete in the different editions of "Jeopardy."

"I would like to join the teen version, then the college version, before finally moving on to the adult Jeopardy,'" he said.

"He likes to win," his mother Jean was quoted by news reports as saying.

Joseph, who joined the bee for the first time this year, is eligible to compete again next year but will have to go through the round of contests again, starting with the Spelling Bee in his hometown.

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American fights to save a tree in Baguio

By Vincent Cabreza
inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AN AMERICAN living in this city spent the whole of Friday morning tying green ribbons on the sleeves of people he met on the street on which stands a concrete pine tree.

Tom Ewing, a mathematics professor who is a faculty adviser at one of the universities in Baguio, said the ribbons were part of his campaign to "reawaken the community's consciousness to the city's dwindling pine tree cover."

Most of the pedestrians Ewing pinned the ribbons on, however, were oblivious of his personal crusade.

Since April, Ewing has been at the forefront of a petition to stop a local university from chopping down a large pine tree standing in the way of a future day care center on campus.

Ewing said he and three Filipino volunteers distributed the ribbons as a show of commitment to "all pine trees," hoping to generate the same outrage that compelled Baguio residents to stop the privatization plan of Camp John Hay by a Taiwanese firm in the 1990s.

He calls his group "The Sea of Green Movement," to inspire residents "to wear green clothes to symbolize the principle that trees belong to the people and not private owners."

Ewing said he faces a daunting task now that he has demanded the preservation of the pine tree that straddles two universities and a hospital along Assumption Road here.

In the letter he distributes to pedestrians, Ewing says the pine tree has been marked with the number "1" in yellow paint.

The city had marked most of the trees growing along major thoroughfares for inventory purposes. "It is the Number 1 large old tree in Baguio," Ewing said.

He said university officials who refuse to heed his protest should be equated with United States President George W. Bush, whom he criticized for refusing to sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on Global Warming.

"On this issue, [Bush] is a solitary, isolated president. The American people are shocked and ashamed of him. He is an anti-environmentalist," he said.

"[The university president] refuses to save the large old tree... On this issue, he is also a solitary, isolated president," Ewing said.

The issue of protecting Baguio's pine trees always strongly resonates politically here, according to the city environment office.

Baguio has a law penalizing people who harm pine trees.

Civic groups and Baguio's old families marched on the streets on at least three occasions between 1993 and 2000 to protest government-led projects that threatened the city's remaining forest cover.

Remaining forest

Camp John Hay and a section of a residential area on South Drive here are the remaining forested spots of the summer capital.

The local government is also vigilant against land claimants who stake ancestral properties in a city watershed.

But government foresters admitted that no one has been prosecuted for harming pine trees from the time the ordinance became law in 1990.

In fact, none of the candidates in the May 14 elections was reprimanded or fined for nailing or gluing campaign posters to trees.

Ewing said he had no legal argument to elevate his crusade to the courts, after discovering that the university had started building around the tree.

He said local officials had assured him that Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. was not inclined to issue a permit allowing the university work crews to cut down the tree.

Local government policy justifies a cutting permit only for dead trees or trees that had become a hazard to houses or buildings.

Embolden others

Ewing, who has been in the country for two years, said he launched his crusade because he feared the loss of the pine tree would embolden others to cut down trees.

"They start with one, then they go to two, then they go to three. It doesn't matter when it starts. It only matters when it finishes. So you have to take a strong stand," he said.

Focus point

"[This pine tree] is a focus point. The city of Baguio must realize it owns the trees. It's a platform to make a philosophical change [in the city]," he said.

"I'm [currently] living in the Buddhist Temple [near the university]... It's the last large tree on the street [where] I live. [The university] acquired tunnel vision... for that reason, it has to be a dogfight [between my group and the university]," he said.

He said the day care center project itself was ill-conceived.

Ewing said the center building would be too small to accommodate the children of the university's employees.

It is also too close to the hospital and would become an even bigger obstruction.

"Think about this, if they build that day care center and they have 300 children, then twice a day there would be 300 taxi cabs and private vehicles picking up the kids. And that is a turning point. It's very narrow," he said.

The INQUIRER asked university officials to comment but they begged off.

Ewing said he would pursue his crusade to its logical end.

TOM EWING ties a green ribbon around a young woman's arm to draw attention to the plight of a pine tree that a university wants to chop down to build a day care center. Ewing says he's not only fighting for the one tree but "all pine trees" threatened with destruction.
VINCENT CABREZA

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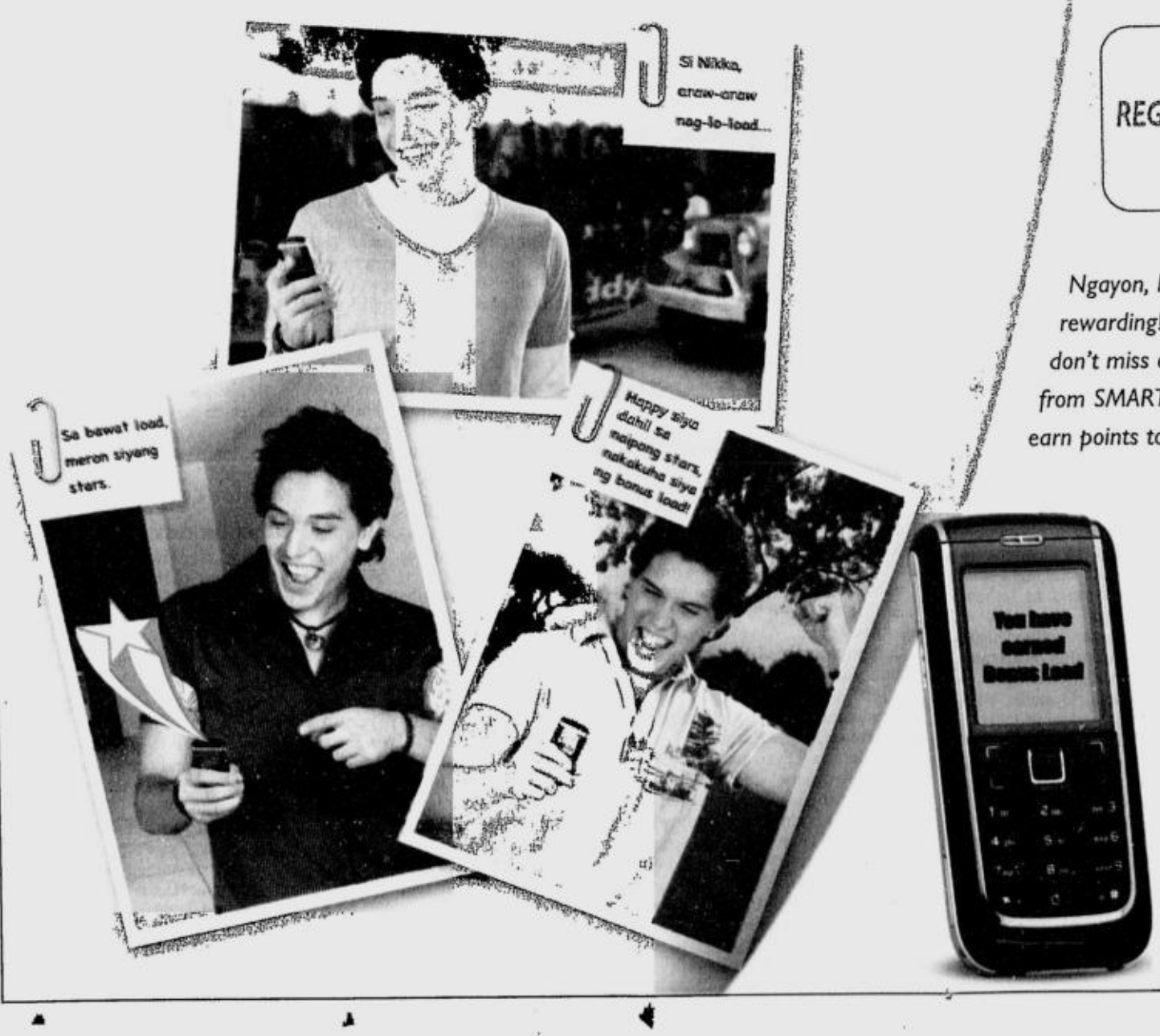

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Smokey Mountain:
Hope springs from former dump

By Allison W. Lopez

SCAVENGERS WHO MAKE LITTLE MONEY by selling trash from the former dump in Tondo, Manila, now have an opportunity to earn more with the recent inauguration of a material recovery facility (MRF).

Touted as a symbol of hope for the poorest of the poor, the MRF serves as a recycling area where workers can sort out garbage from households, schools and firms which can be sold at higher prices in sophisticated "junkyards" overseas. This means a bigger income for residents, unlike in the past when they sold unsorted trash.

The segregated waste is bought by local companies which sell it to international markets like China, which transforms the garbage into new primary materials.

The opening of the MRF is also in line with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which encourages the establishment of recycling facilities in communities to divert waste from active landfills.

But what makes the MRF in Smokey Mountain more special is that it was born out of a partnership involving the community, a nongovernment organization and a private company.

Symbol of hope

"It's a small building but it's a symbol of hope. It can show you what can happen in a community. If you're talking about alleviating poverty, you should start where poverty is," said J. Hugh Faulkner, president and founder of Sustainable Project Management (SPM).

SPM is a Geneva-based NGO whose members have helped residents in the area improve their waste recycling by better collection, sorting and exporting.

For the past two years now, the SPM has been teaching members of the Samahan ng Muling Pagkabuhay Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMP-MPC) how to segregate their trash according to type and color. Aluminum, paper and carton are also accepted for trading apart from plastic. A kilo of mixed waste priced at P15 can go up to P26 to P30 when it is segregated.

Construction of the two-story building that houses the garbage facility was sponsored by a $229,500 grant from the Asian Development Bank.

Tom Crouch, ADB country director, said the grant was actually a "modest" one compared with their other projects—but with a "highly visible impact on poverty."

For over 40 years, Smokey Mountain was a two million-ton garbage heap that served as Metro Manila's dumping ground. It drew a large community of informal settlers who turned into scavengers in order to earn money. Once known as the symbol of poverty, it was later transformed by the government into a showcase of low-income housing community of over 30,000 people.

"Smokey Mountain is the face of poverty. But today, it's the face of hope and inspiration. The MRF is indeed a symbol of hope because it will provide livelihood opportunities and improve the environment at the same time," Crouch said, adding that before the MRF's construction, jobs were scarce in the area with the health of workers always at risk.

With the "greener and safer" workspace at the MRF, workers no longer have to worry about getting sick when they gather toxic waste materials.

Designed by architect Clifford Espinosa, the MRF was constructed using hollow blocks and pavers made from residual waste. It has natural ventilation plus protection from heavy rains. The facility will soon have a large kitchen area for an expanded food catering business, originally to feed workers at the site.

But the structure itself was built by the community, specifically, by 40 residents who underwent a 10-day crash course on construction conducted by Holcim Cement.

"It has truly taken the effort and support of the whole community to make this new building a reality," said SPM program director Anita Celdran.

The recycling program of SPM also includes teaching Smokey Mountain residents to manage their household waste, which can be turned into organic fertilizer.

Over 100 housewives have also benefited from learning to make notebooks, ladies' bags and accessories from old newspapers and phone directories. Most of their products are being exported to Australia. Soon, a clothing line will also be launched to open more job opportunities in the community.

Need for more training

"It became apparent that there was a need to improve the recycling facility and provide capacity building and skills training to the community," Celdran said.

Though Smokey Mountain has slowly veered away from its previous image of being the symbol of poverty in the Philippines, much still needs to be done in the remaining landfill that still emits toxic fumes.

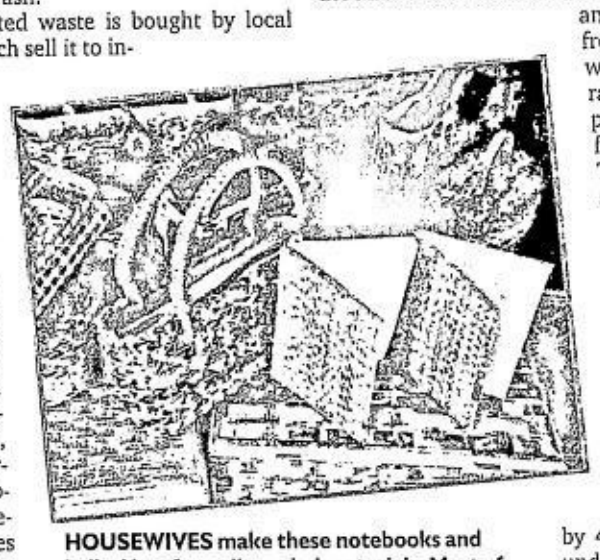
Because of the danger posed by the fumes, several residents have been forbidden from growing vegetables on top of the former dump, while children who used to play in the area have also warned against doing so.

A leachate study on the metals and toxins seeping from the former mountain of garbage was also conducted by the SPM and the University of the Philippines. Its findings are being finalized.

Even the MRF is still incomplete. A connecting building is expected to rise on the 1,000-sq m leased land soon.

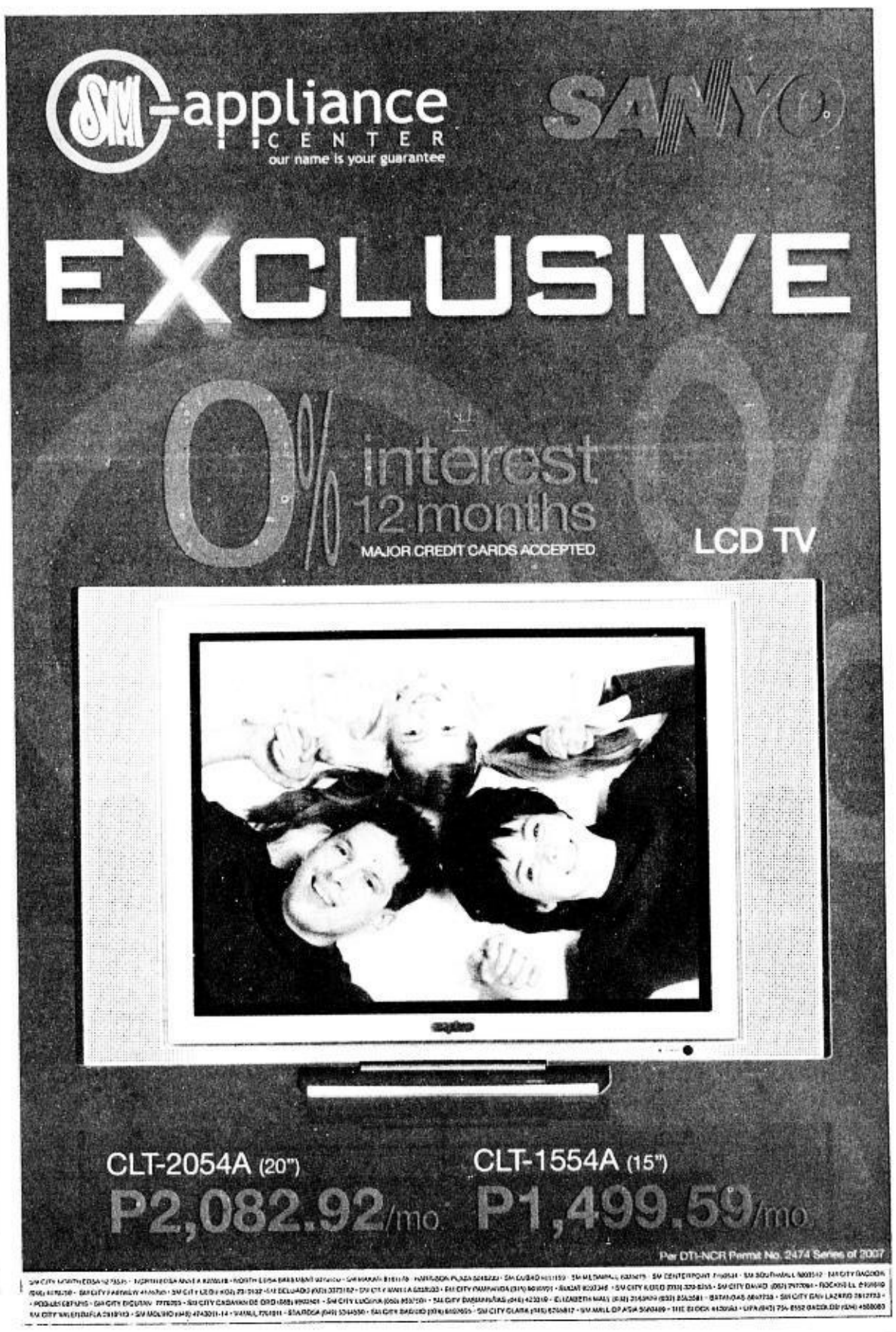
But it can wait, just as the Smokey Mountain residents have, for a glimmer of hope in this place they call home.

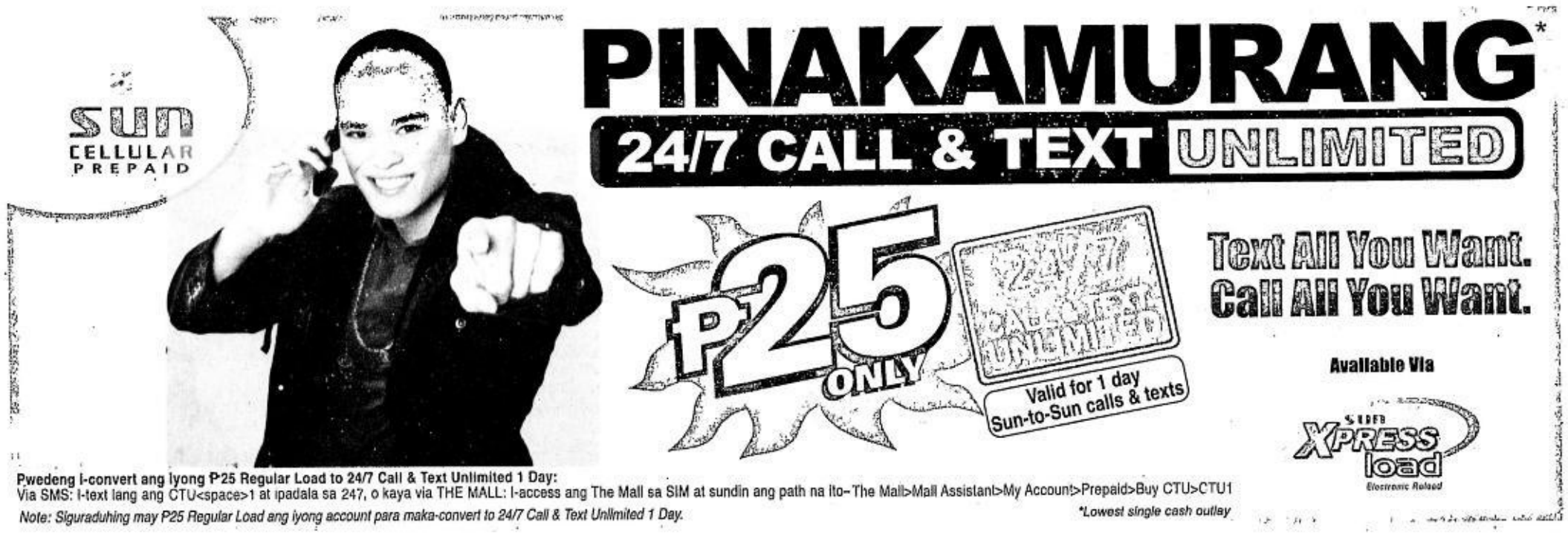
THE MATERIAL recovery facility, which is undergoing expansion, offers a chance at a better life for residents in Smokey Mountain.



HOUSEWIVES make these notebooks and ladies' bag from discarded materials. Most of their products end up in the Australian market.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007

"I LONG FOR THE DAY WHEN GOING abroad for a job like what you do is an option, and not the only choice. Our economic plans are designed to allow the Philippines to break out the cycle of having our Filipinos go abroad because they have to ."

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo, November 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

BLESSED BE THE TIES THAT BIND. The Camacho sisters (seated from left) Lola Clara, Lola Fulgencia, and Lola Ising with their children at a family reunion in Los Angeles, California in September 2006.

4 generations of OFWs define a family

By Gian S. Camacho
Contributor

THERE IS NO OTHER family that I know of that is probably as intensely defined by generations of international migration as mine. I haven't encountered any other family who is as mobile as my family.

Beginning with my great grandfather, Gavino Camacho, our family has so far accumulated a grand total of 77 years of migration history, which effectively covers all three major waves of Filipino migration abroad.

Although the first generation of Filipino migrants could be traced all the way back to the Spanish colonial era particularly during the galleon trade, the history of Overseas Filipino Workers is popularly divided into three systematic waves.

First wave

The first wave began from 1900s to the 1930s and was composed of *pensionados*, Filipino students who were awarded with academic scholarships to American universities, and agricultural laborers recruited by the US government to work in the vast sugar and pineapple plantations of Hawaii. It was in this wave where my great grandfather Gavino belonged.

My great grandfather used to work as a rig driver in our hometown, Bayambang, Pangasinan.

Without anything much to live by with his and his wife Antonia's earnings, my Lolo Gavino, along with several men in his barrio decided to volunteer as plantation worker in 1930 during the final years of the American government's massive recruitment of Ilocano laborers for Hawaii's sugar and pineapple plantations.

World War II

Because of Gavino's departure in 1930, the family that he left behind had to work hard to get by.

My great grandmother Antonia's earnings as the local midwife wasn't enough to feed all of her five children. So my grandfather Justo Camacho, along with his siblings Bernardo, Calixto, Fulgencia and Clara, had to start working at a very young age.

My Lolo Justo couldn't even imagine how they were able to survive all those years without a father to support them through all their hardship. All they had to rely on was the entire family's pooled earnings and sporadic remittances from Lolo Gavino.

There even came a time when they lost all contact with Lolo Gavino after the Second World War broke out.

It was only after the war that Lolo Justo and his siblings got word regarding Lolo Gavino's whereabouts.

Through the help of the then-secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Emmanuel Pelaez, they found out that Lolo Gavino was still in Hawaii. However, with the good news that their father was still alive and well came the discovery that Lolo Gavino already had another family in Hawaii.

From that time onwards, the Camacho siblings realized that they really only had each other and their mother to rely on to survive.

My Lolo Justo and his brothers and sisters began building families of their own and managed to make a decent living by becoming one of the pioneering families who went into onion farming in our Pangasinan hometown.

In spite of having no father to guide and support them, Lolo Justo and his siblings were able to secure a relatively comfortable life for themselves and each of them found success and respectability in the town.

During Lolo Gavino's absence, Lolo Justo and his siblings received a significant degree of prominence in Bayambang town through their renowned values of hard work and service.

Lolo Gavino's last visit

Lolo Justo became the most respected captain of their home barrio for almost 30 years while his younger brother Calixto, on the other hand, had a long and fruitful career serving the people as town mayor.

It took over 40 years for Lolo Gavino and his family here in the Philippines to get reunited again, albeit only for a brief period.

In 1971, my great grandfather returned home for a 40-day vacation, which turned out to be his last and only visit to the Philippines after moving to Hawaii. After seeing my Lolo Justo and his siblings getting by well enough without him, Lolo Gavino returned to his family in Hawaii where he spent the final years of his life.

ROOTS. Back where they come from in Bayambang, Pangasinan are the Calixto siblings (from left) Lolo Calixto, Lola Fulgencia, Lola Clara, and Lolo Justo, all part of the exodus of Filipino workers to the United States in the 1970s, during a family get-together early last year.

It was my Aunt Lourdes, Lolo Justo's eldest child who spearheaded our family's inclusion in the second wave of Philippine labor migration.

Armed with a working visa, Aunt Lourdes left for the United States in the early '70s, and thus became part of one of the final batches of the second major wave of Filipino migrants.

Exodus to US

The migrants of the second wave were the family members of the first generation American labor migrants and Filipino World War II veterans who were given US special citizenship opportunities because of their service during the war.

Aside from these groups, post-World War II America experienced the immigration of Filipino professionals from the medical, nursing, accounting, engineering and other technical fields and this was the group in which my Aunt Lourdes belonged.

In 1980, my Aunt Lourdes facilitated the migration of my Lolo Justo and his wife, Lola Monica to the United States.

In a slightly warped sense, 1980 turned out to be the right year for Lolo Justo to move to America because a few months after migrating there, Lolo Gavino died in Hawaii. Lolo Justo flew to Hawaii that same year to go to my great grandfather's funeral and finally met his half-siblings there.

Third wave

After acquiring American citizenship in the mid-80s, Lolo Justo started taking all of his unmarried children (which includes my father) with him to the United States.

It was only two years ago when Lolo Justo finally completed along all of his other children who were left behind in the Philippines because it took a longer time to petition for the migration of married children.

With the departure of Lolo Justo's children who had to remain here at first, the series of migrations that my Aunt Lourdes started was finally closed. They are all there now in California.

The international exodus of my family however, did not end there. Some family members went on to join the third wave of Filipino labor migrants.

The third wave of Filipino labor migrants started during the mid-70s where the Middle East oil boom caused a huge demand for Filipino contract workers. It is still going on at present and is now composed mostly of Filipino contractual workers who are trying to meet the demands of the international labor market.

Some of my aunts and cousins joined this exodus of Filipino laborers to different parts of the globe and as a result, effectively completed our family's inclusion in all three major waves of Philippine labor migration.

These days, my Lolo Justo still finds it unbelievable that through our long history of migration, the entire family has found security and contentment in life.

Global Pinoys

Of his 16 children, 15 of them were able to make something out of themselves after grabbing the opportunity of having a better life through overseas work.

Some of my cousins now work in Singapore, Hongkong, Taiwan and Dubai. (Four members of the fifth generation—a nephew and three nieces—are also now based in California).

As for myself, after looking back at the family's labor migration history, it is no wonder how the world of overseas Filipinos continue to fascinate me. Because of this fascination, the subject of Philippine labor migration continues to dominate my research work in school.

My immersion in a family made up of four generations of Global Pinoys beginning from my Lolo Gavino down to mine and that of my cousins has certainly contributed a lot to defining who and what I am right now.

Gian S. Camacho, 21, graduated with honors from San Beda College with a degree in Philosophy last March. He has been admitted to the College of Law of the University of the Philippines this school year.

LOLO JUSTO'S son Paeng (extreme left) and wife Myrna lead the third generation of OFWs in the Calixto family. With them during the Los Angeles reunion last year are their cousins and a nephew.

Filipino lawyer in LA misses action-packed stint at NBI

By Miko Morelos

WHETHER IT'S A MIDNIGHT rendezvous with a tipster, a swift, carefully-planned buy-bust operation or leading a pack of agents in a manhunt, one thing is certain for lawyer Morel R. Callueng: he misses his once action-packed job at the National Bureau of Investigation.

Now living across the Pacific, Morel could only sit back in his chair, close his eyes and relive the good ol' days at the bureau, the place he called home for over a decade until his migration to sunny California in 1999.

The high point of his career at the bureau was the arrest of convicted rapist Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos in 1997.

When Jalosjos went missing on Dec. 26, 1996 after a Makati court ordered his arrest, lawmen formed teams and launched a manhunt.

Morel was the chief of staff of then NBI Director Santiago Toledo when he was assigned to head the NBI team in tracking down Jalosjos. He worked in partnership with the Presidential Security Group, then headed by Brig. Gen. Jose Calimlim.

Most coveted award

At first, the team faced a blank wall. Jalosjos and his handlers were often a step ahead of his pursuers.

Jalosjos' luck eventually ran out and fate swung in favor of law enforcers.

It was a scene straight out of the movies, PSG men described Jalosjos' arrest on Jan. 17, 1997. Six choppers and a Fokker plane hovered the islet as sharpshooters from the PSG spread on an island in Bagac, Bataan.

For his efforts, Morel was awarded Agent of the Year in 1997, the most coveted plum in the bureau.

But the trying times were just ahead as a financial crisis hit Asian markets in July 1997. Morel knew he had a bright future in the bureau but he also had to look out for his children who were growing up.

A lot of political events like the turbulent years of the Estrada presidency among other events influenced the decision of Morel to give migration to the United States a shot, leaving the country in 1999.

What he experienced during his first few months away from home was perhaps the one usually shared by many new migrants.

"At first, life in the United States was a challenge," Morel says.

"Before, I was used to having a close-in security, driver, maid and other comforts of life. Now, I had to fend off for myself, like doing the laundry, washing the dishes, doing the grocery, and other errands," he recalls.

Complicating the first months of his stay in the US was the fact that he had to be an ocean away from his wife Cathy and two sons Joseph Michael and Michael Douglas. "After a year, I was able to adjust to the new environment and my family followed after a year," he says.

Passing US bar

In February 2000, Morel took the three-day California bar and he was admitted to the state roll of lawyers five months later.

Morel started his law practice at a law firm in Mid Wilshire area, Los Angeles, where he worked as an associate. He handled cases on social security disability and immigration problems.

In 2005, he established his own law firm and specialized in immigration cases. Some of his clients include actress Hilda Koronel and former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr.

Still, Morel longs for his native land, as the adage goes, "there's no place like home."

Says he: "I may live a comfortable life here in the United States but I still miss the Philippines."

Despite leaving the bureau, the agent in Morel still rises to the occasion from time to time. He says he still helps the NBI in tracking down fugitives from Philippine law in the United States and keeps in touch with bureau people in the US as well.

LAWYER Morel Calueng with wife Cathy and sons Joseph Michael and Michael Douglas in California.

Europeans cool to Bush plan on global warming

BUSH

ESSEN, GERMANY—PRESIDENT George W. Bush's plan to combat climate change got a cool reception on Friday in Europe, where the European Union's environment chief dismissed it as unambitious and the "classic" US line.

Bush, under pressure to do more ahead of a summit in Germany next week of the Group of Eight industrial nations, said on Thursday that he would seek a deal among top emitters on long-term cuts in greenhouse gases by the end of 2008.

"The declaration by President Bush basically restates the US classic line on climate change—no mandatory reductions, no carbon trading and vaguely expressed objectives," EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said, according to his spokesperson.

"The US approach has proven to be ineffective in reducing emissions," Dimas said.

Bush called for a long-term deal on cuts among 15 top emitters led by the United States, China, Russia and India, a shift from an existing US policy lasting to 2012 that will allow US greenhouse gas emissions to rise.

German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said Bush's announcement could be seen as progress only if it prepared the way for a United Nations pact to extend the Kyoto Protocol past 2012.

"If it is an attempt to hamper such an international climate change agreement, then it is dangerous," he told reporters.

"The European Union and also the G8 should not be content with initiating a process that just means that we'll have some vague agreements between 10 or 15 countries in the world."

Some newspapers portrayed Bush's plan as a defeat for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who wants the G8 to agree now on a need for world cuts of about 50 percent in emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

"One of the customs at G8 summits is that the other participants grant the host a success on their big issue," the Financial Times Deutschland said in an editorial.

"The fact that Bush has not kept to this is an affront, and he's made Merkel's defeat even worse," it said. In Britain the Guardian said "Bush kills off hopes for G8 climate-change plan."

In Washington, a senior White House official insisted Bush's proposal was aimed at helping to find a consensus and was no way an effort to upstage Merkel's efforts.

"It is not a competitor to anybody's proposal. It is an effort to make a contribution to an ongoing dialogue," said Stephen Hadley, Bush's top national security adviser.

"The president thought it would be better for him to lay it out before the G8 meeting so people can think about it," Hadley said, adding that he had spoken to his G8 counterparts before Bush's speech. *Reuters*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

726 corpses found in Baghdad in May

Sharp rise in number of unidentified bodies found shows sectarian killings soaring

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE NUMBER OF UNIDENTIFIED corpses discovered in Baghdad soared more than 70 percent during May, according to new statistics from the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, an indication that sectarian killings are rising sharply as militias return to the streets after lying low during the first few months of the troop "surge."

In May, 726 unidentified bodies were found in Baghdad, many bound and shot in the head or showing signs of torture and execution, compared with 411 during April, according to figures provided by a ministry official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

The Bush administration and military have cited a decline in sectarian killings as proof that the troop escalation is working. And despite May's increase in corpses, the numbers remain far below the peak of sectarian executions last year. In July and August, for example, a total of 5,106 people died violent deaths in Baghdad alone, according to the United Nations, including 3,391 reported by the city's morgue.

The new figures also show a decline in the number of deaths of identifiable victims in Baghdad to 344 in May from 495 in April. While victims of car bombs, homemade bombs and mortar strikes can usually be identified, those who are kidnapped, tortured and executed are normally stripped of identification before their bodies are dumped.

Three more US soldiers were reported killed: two in Baghdad on Wednesday, one from a roadside bomb and one from small-arms fire, and one killed Friday by small-arms fire near Zawiyah.

Three children, ages 7, 9 and 11, were killed when an allied tank attacked insurgents trying to bury a bomb near Fallujah on Friday, the military said. The insurgents escaped.

The increase in sectarian killings came as residents reported more than a dozen people killed this week in the insurgent-dominated Amiriya district of western Baghdad in what they described as fierce skirmishes between al-Qaida in Mesopotamia and the Islamic Army of Iraq. The fighting appeared to be the first large-scale battles inside Baghdad between al-Qaida and other Sunni insurgent groups. *NYT*

US missiles hit Qaida base in Somalia

BOSSASSO, SOMALIA—A US WARSHIP attacked a suspected al Qaeda target in northern Somalia on Friday, CNN reported, and residents said missiles pounded an area where foreign jihadists have clashed with local forces.

There was no immediate news of casualties from the strike, which unnamed sources told CNN was the second this year to target a suspect in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 240 people.

A Pentagon spokesperson declined to comment on the report.

Locals in Barga, a port in Somalia's semiautonomous Puntland region, said the missiles appeared to be aimed at a group of Islamists, including foreigners, who landed by boat in the area on Wednesday and exchanged fire with local police.

"Missiles fired from a ship hit the mountains where the Islamic fighters and foreigners are hiding," one resident, who asked not to be named, told Reuters by radio phone on Saturday.

"A plane was circling and guiding the ship where to hit."

He said Puntland forces were also pursuing the group, which one senior local official said were remnants of an Islamic Courts movement that ruled much of southern Somalia last year.

The United States also launched air strikes in south Somalia in January aimed at three top al Qaeda suspects but killing their allies instead, US officials have said.

Those suspects were wanted for the embassy bombings too, and were attacked near a coastal village where Islamist leaders fled after being routed from the capital Mogadishu by the Somali interim government and its Ethiopian military allies.

The Puntland official said the group headed into the hills behind Barga after arriving by boat from that southern village, Ras Kamboni. He said it included 13 foreign fighters.

Washington says six al Qaeda operatives or associates are in Somalia, including alleged embassy bomber Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, and Abu Talha al-Sudani, accused of orchestrating the 2002 bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Kenya that killed 15.

Others include Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, hard line leader of the ousted Somali Islamic Courts Council (SICC), and Adan Hashi Ayro, head of the SICC's feared military wing, the Shabaab.

"We recognize the importance of working closely with allies to seek out, identify, locate, capture, and if necessary, kill terrorists and those who would provide them safe haven," said Pentagon spokesperson Bryan Whitman.

"The very nature of some of our operations, as well as the success of those operations is often predicated on our ability to work quietly with our partners and allies," he added, when asked to comment on the CNN report. *Reuters*

THE GIRL, THE HAT AND THE BIRD
A sun conure sits on the hat of a girl to receive food at the Kachoen (bird and flower garden) in Kakegawa, central Japan, on Saturday. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

Lebanon army storms militant posts at camp; 18 die

NAHR AL-BARED, Lebanon—Advancing under a blanket of artillery and tank fire, Lebanese troops overran positions held by al Qaeda-inspired militants at a Palestinian refugee camp on Friday and 18 people were killed. Artillery and machine gunfire shook Nahr al-Bared camp in north Lebanon from early morning to nightfall. At times shells exploded at a rate of 10 a minute. Security sources said at least 16 people were killed, as well as two soldiers, after the fiercest fighting in two weeks. Elite forces seized three key positions of Fatah al-Islam militants and destroyed sniper nests on the northern and eastern edges of the camp. *Reuters*

China to set up military hotline with US

SINGAPORE—China and the United States plan to set up a defense hotline, one of Beijing's top generals said on Saturday, a move aimed at improving military relations as Washington grows increasingly wary of China's military buildup. Zhang Qinsheng, deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, said the issue of a hotline between the Chinese military and the US Defense Department would be settled when he visited the United States in September. "We will finalize the establishment of the hotline," said Major General Zhang, speaking through an interpreter at an Asian security conference in Singapore. "We are prepared that in September this year during the ninth Sino-US defense talks, we are going to settle the issue." *Reuters*

'Dr. Death' Kevorkian leaves prison

DETROIT—Jack Kevorkian, the US assisted suicide advocate dubbed "Dr. Death," stepped free from a Michigan prison on Friday with few words but plans for a media blitz to support his cause. Kevorkian, 79, who says he assisted in some 130 deaths, had served eight years for a second-degree murder conviction after he videotaped himself administering lethal drugs to a 52-year-old man suffering from the debilitating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease. The former pathologist won international notoriety in the 1990s after presiding as a doctor in suicides and advocating the legalization of assisted suicide in the United States. *Reuters*

SMART Communications as Brass Sponsor in 2007 Wireless Enterprise Symposium (WES)

Orlando, Florida - SMART Communications, through their Corporate Business Group, here joined the 2007 Wireless Enterprise Symposium or WES, an annual Blackberry Mobile event that gathers worldwide mobile carrier leaders, software vendors and solution providers.

Paul Osmond, Director for Researh-in-Motion (RIM) in Asia Pacific (middle), is flanked by SMART CBG Marketing Head Chet Alviz (left), and SMART CBG Wireless Head Dick Perez (right)

Every year, the WES draws large numbers. This is a venue where companies from all over the world learn and discover everything they need to know about what's new and what's coming in wireless technologies. Through dozens of different activities including break-out sessions, panel discussions and solutions showcases, carrier leaders such as SMART caught a glimpse of how the rest of the world is developing and deploying Blackberry applications.

"Our involvement in this year's WES has just reinforced what we have already believed in --- that Blackberry and data mobility solutions will continue to evolve and adapt to the ever-changing needs of the corporate consumer, enabling them to do more with less", said Dick Perez, SMART Corporate Business Group (CBG) Wireless Head. "What we are particularly pleased over is the event's overall consensus that the future of telecommunications is "unified communications"--- where a single mobile device can perform wireless, landline, and data applications, making life easier and more convenient to manage. This is the very thing the PLDT Group of Companies is planning to achieve very soon".

WES participants from all over the world eagerly wait for sessions to begin

SMART CBG is a regular participant in the WES event and is keen in involving themselves in the continued wireless evolution. "The WES has always given us a sneak peek of the limitless potentials of wireless. In fact, the dream of having just one mobile device performing multiple tasks is closer than most of us think", adds Chet Alviz, SMART CBG Wireless Marketing Head. "The PLDT Group's Next Generation Network (NGN) facilities are laying down the groundwork in unified communications. The lines between wireless and fixed telecoms have definitely started to blur".

SMART has recently launched the Blackberry 8800 SMARTPhone, and is Research-in-Motion's partner in developing Blackberry solutions for corporate clients in the Philippines.

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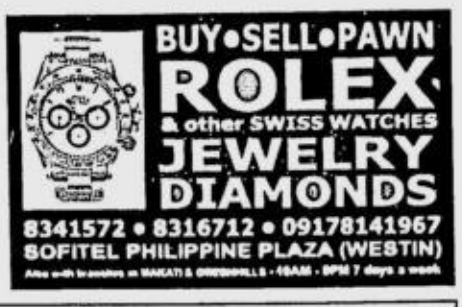

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Romel-Rico trade stirs hornet's nest

ENCARNADO: Bad sign

ADDUCUL: To Purefoods

VILLANUEVA: Insubordinate

Teams to ask PBA to nullify deal

By Musong R. Castillo

AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPpine Basketball Association board are questioning the legality of the recent trade involving Enrico Villanueva and Romel Adducul and are set to file a motion to nullify the deal, believing that transactions like these could ultimately cause the downfall of the league.

Two of those board members were very vocal in their protest of the trade and claimed that it violated a newly-enforced rule—the Restricted Trading List—implemented by commissioner Noli Eala.

Sta. Lucia's Buddy Encarnado and Alaska's Joaquin Trillo said they would raise a motion to overturn the trade in a special board meeting scheduled this week at an undisclosed place.

Eala welcomed the development, saying it "would give the league a chance to explain [how the deal took place]."

Known to be one of the most outspoken members the board has ever had, Encarnado said that there is no parity in the league these days, with only the "moneyed" teams able to beef up their rosters.

"Let's call an apple an apple," Encarnado told a select group of scribes before their game versus Alaska Friday night at the Ynares Center in Antipolo. "The moment one rule is arbitrarily rescinded, that is a bad sign."

The RTL was introduced a few months ago by Eala precisely to curb one-sided trading among teams and prevent sister teams from consistently using "conduit squads" to get around a rule that bars them from trading among each other.

Under the new scheme, a team will put one player in the list and that player cannot be traded for another player on the opposite team's restricted list.

Villanueva was the one listed in Red Bull's RTL, but Red Bull management was able to trade him for Adducul after it "delisted" the former Ateneo ace for being "insubordinate" and "unhappy" with the squad.

Had Villanueva not been stricken off that list, the only player San Miguel could give up to acquire him is Danny Seigle.

Adducul eventually found his way to Purefoods, San Miguel's sister team, after Red Bull dealt him for second-string big man Don Camaso.

And this is why Encarnado and Trillo are up in arms, for the rule proved that it never stood on solid ground. Both claim that two other teams—Coca-Cola and Welcoat—also do not approve of the idea.

Trillo said that raising the motion to overturn the trade was his idea. He also said that he would bat for the RTL to be ditched altogether because it did not serve the purpose to which it was intended.

"What is black is black and what's white should be white," Trillo said. "(Don) Camaso should also be in the RP Team because that's what it (trade among the three teams) all boils down to."

Eala already explained to journalists who covered the Southeast Asian Basketball Association tournament in Thailand how the trade got the approval from his office.

Eala said the rule comes with an escape clause that allows teams to shield itself from being hostaged by players who want out of the club.

ROMEL/ A26

Gin Kings battle Express; Beermen test Phone Pals

ALASKA COACH TIM Cone knows exactly what he's going to get. Or, to be more apt, not get.

"I know we're not going to get any favors," Cone said, moments after his Aces secured at least a playoff for the second outright semifinal slot in the PBA Fiesta Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo Friday night.

He was talking of Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text, who will be clashing with separate foes at the Araneta Coliseum today to close elimination round action and hopefully catch the Aces.

"I wish that both of them would lose," the multi-titled Cone said jokingly. "But they're such good teams, that's why I know that we will be in some kind of playoff next week (Wednesday)."

The Gin Kings battle Air21 at 4:05 p.m., while the Phone Pals slug it out with San Miguel Beer in the 6:35 p.m. contest as they gun for wins that would keep alive their respective hopes of advancing to the Final Four automatically.

Victories by both would take the Kings out of the semifinal picture because of an inferior quotient and leave the Phone Pals and Aces fighting it out for the No. 2 spot.

STANDINGS	W	L
Red Bull	13	5
Alaska	12	6
Ginebra	11	7
Talk 'N Text	11	7
Air21	10	7
San Miguel	9	8
Coca-Cola	7	11
Purefoods	6	12
Sta. Lucia	5	13
Welcoat	4	14

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Brgy. Ginebra vs Air21
6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk 'N Text

The only way for Ginebra to advance outright is for the Kings to win and the Phone Pals to lose tonight before they battle Alaska in a you-or-me contest on Wednesday for the right to join Red Bull in the Final Four.

Today's double header is also of equal importance to their foes, with San Miguel and Air21 looking for victories that would determine where they will play next. *Musong R. Castillo*

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Ikeda tops Jakarta jr tilt, lifts RP to team title

CHIHIRO IKEDA BATTLED BACK FROM two shots down to card a five-over par 77 and nip Indon ace Agnes Sudjasmin by one stroke for the Class A crown in the Jakarta Junior World Golf Championship at the Damai Indah Golf Club in Jakarta, Indonesia Friday.

Ikeda, the 16-year-old find from Davao, pounced on Sudjasmin's four-putt mishap on No. 10 to seize control then came through with two tap-in birdies on Nos. 13 and 15 to negate her closing double-bogey. She had a three-day aggregate of 231, including earlier rounds of 75 and 79.

That was one stroke better than Sudjasmin, who posted a two-shot lead after 36 holes with a 79 and 73, but limped home with an 80 for a 232,. Wei Ju Lao of China placed third after a 79 and a 237.

Ikeda, one of the members of the ICTSI golf squad, also teamed up with Louise Manalo to steer the Philippines to a five-shot victory over the Indon pair of Sudjasmin and Ika Woro Palupi in the team championship. The RP bets finished with a 463.

Ikeda's come-from-behind win capped the Philippines' fine showing abroad the last three weeks as Dottie Ardina copped the Malaysian Ladies Open title and Jay Bayron pocketed the Saujana Amateur crown.

The other Filipino bets who saw action in Jakarta were Class A boys Rocco Sumabat (323), Anthony Saban (324), Brent Sumampong (332), JR Quiachon (345); Class B first runner-up Marcel Puyat, (294), third runner up Wolen Superal (296); Class C second runner up Bino dela pPaz (228); Class C girls third runner up Sarah Jane Ababa (257).

Meanwhile, Bambee dela Paz clinched a spot in this year's US Women's Public Links Championship by topping the qualifying stage at the Herron Lakes Golf Club in Portland, Oregon, last week.

CHIHIRO Ikeda: Prize find from Davao

Aling Luming

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I WAS IN WHAT THEY CALL A HYPNAGOGIC state (half asleep, half awake) as I was talking with an executive-friend from Red Bull who called to inform me that the league's most loyal and enduring fan Illuminada Pagala, better known as Aling Luming, had passed away. She was in her 70's.

A regular fixture of the PBA and the staunchest Sonny Jaworski fan, Aling Luming had been around for as long as I can remember. She was a retired teacher.

* * *

The Red Bull insider said Aling Luming was found by a neighbor lying unconscious but still alive in her Sampaloc home last week. She was rushed to the hospital where she fought for her life for days but eventually succumbed without ever regaining consciousness.

Her idol the Big J and Allan Caidic were among the first people to visit her at the hospital. This was not the first time Sonny did this gesture to what is probably his biggest fan.

"When we learned from his fans during our game last May 30 that the UST hospital would not release her body unless her bills were paid, we offered to help," the Red Bull exec related.

Red Bull shouldered Aling Luming's medical bills, facilitating the release of her remains which was brought to the Funeraria Paz in Araneta Avenue where it now lies in state. Having no known relative, her funeral is being handled by fellow PBA fans who have become close friends and almost kin over the years, maybe decades.

For sure we will miss this ever-present familiar face which has made the PBA her life.

* * *

Turning to another subject, a less sad but equally troubling one, I asked my caller if he was aware that the recent trade involving Rico Villanueva has upset some PBA ballclubs.

Correction, "enraged" would be the more appropriate word, I corrected.

"I know but it was Enrico who wanted out. And he didn't stop until he got what he wanted. We never initiated any move to trade him. We were doing everything to keep him."

They only decided to let him go, my source said, after a pivotal meeting between team owner George Chua and Rico's manager Arben Santos.

In this meeting Mr. Chua heard it straight from the horse's mouth that Rico was no longer happy with his mother team, because the cager could not get along well with coach Yeng Guiao. Arben hinted that it was a choice between Yeng and Rico.

Arben also talked about the possibility of trading Rico's fellow Atenean Larry Fonacier, but when consulted, Yeng put his foot down . Hard.

Which is to say that no way would he let Larry go, even if he begged for release.

As to how cager Don Camaso ended up in the Red Bull camp in exchange for Villanueva, that is a matter which will have to be explained by people concerned to the angry ballclubs when the board convenes next week.

"This is not the first time a transaction of this nature has occurred in the PBA," my source said.

Nonetheless, fireworks is expected in next week's board meeting.

* * *

HOOPVINE: By now the RP-San Miguel team should have received its double bonus from sponsor SMC and SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan, for topping the SEABA qualifier for the FIBA-Asia Men's championship in Ratchaburi, Thailand....SMC was giving the Nationals a cash bonus while MVP gifted them with a brand new N-95 cellphone each....Publicist Teddy Perena has added some names to the last election winners: Tito Varela, reelected as Caloocan vice mayor and Yoyong Martirez as Pasig vice mayor.

Road Kings stun Moneymen

By Jasmine W. Payo

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK GOT LITTLE REST, BUT FOUND MORE OFfensive energy in the closing minutes to stun top-seeded Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala in the opener of the PBL Unity Cup semifinals.

Finding his rhythm in the second half, Marvin Cruz completed a crucial three-point play for a 68-65 escape that pushed the Road Kings within a win of a Finals stint.

"I think the layoff got into them (Moneymen)," said coach Ariel Vanguardia after clinching Game 1 of their best-of-three semifinal series yesterday at The Arena in San Juan. "We were more game-ready. But it was very close. It was just the breaks of the game."

Ranged against Macky Escalona, Cruz initially looked lost in his matchup against the Moneymen point guard in the first half.

But after the break, Cruz did a better job in attacking the basket to log in eight of his 12 points in the second half.

"Macky has always been a headache for us, so I challenged my point guards in this game," noted Vanguardia.

A third straight Finals appearance was also within Harbour Centre's reach after blasting Henkel Sista, 87-62, in the other Final Four duel.

"We just shot well and played well," said Harbour coach Jorge Gallent. "On defense, our goal was to limit them by 60 points, which we did. Sista averages 78 points and we shot them down by 16 points, that's a big factor."

Ryan Araña paced the defending champions with 17 markers, while Chico Lanete fired all of his 11 points in the first half before sustaining a cut on his foot.

For the second straight game, Fil-Am Ryan Reyes played less than a minute for the Super Sealers due to a groin injury.

The Moneymen came off a week-long break after clinching an outright semifinal berth. Although they came out firing behind Ken Bono, the tournament leaders could not get a single shot to fall in the final five minutes.

Bono, who shot nine of the Moneymen's first 11 points in the fourth period, missed a potential game-tying triple at the left flank in the dying seconds.

Cruz completed a three-point play that lifted the Road Kings, 67-65, with only three minutes left.

With Joe Devance again flexing his muscles at the paint, the Road Kings halted the Moneymen's seven-game winning streak.

Devance delivered 13 points, seven rebounds and five assists in the Road Kings' second straight win after wrapping up their quarterfinal series versus Burger King.

Patrick Cabahug also fired 13 markers, including eight in an 11-2 run that closed out the third period in the Road Kings' favor, 54-50.

Unlike the Road Kings, the Super Sealers came out sluggish with a horrendous 21 percent shooting clip in the opening period to trail Batang Pier, 19-9, at the end of the quarter.

Jonathan Fernandez opened the next canto with back-to-back triples to put the tournament's second seed up by 20 points, 40-20.

GAMES TUESDAY
(Olivarez College Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Henkel
4 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs Toyota Balintawak

The scores:

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 68—Devance 13, Cabahug 13 Cruz 12, Coronel 6,Guerrero 6, Rodriguez 6, Dedicatoria 4, Tan 3, Daa 2, Fajardo 2, Coching 1, Alcaraz 0, Jaime 0, Baluyot 0.

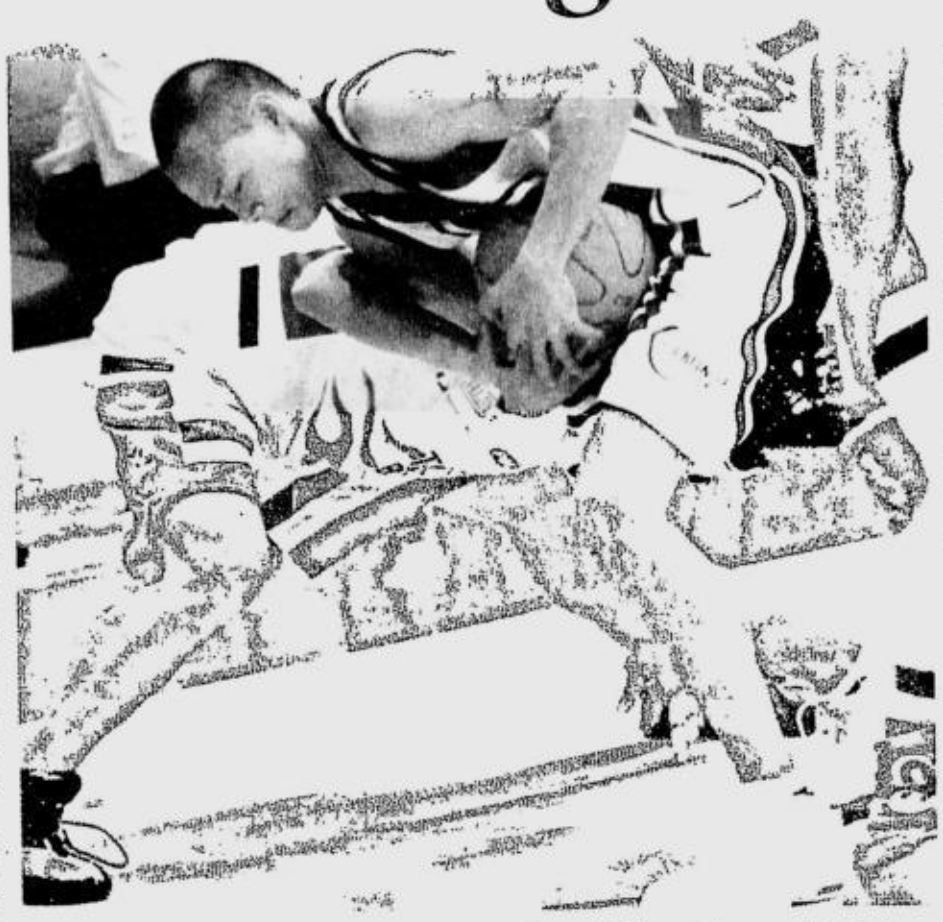
CEBUANA LHUILLIER 65—Bono 15, Kramer 10, Sta. Maria 9, Escalona 9, Capus 8, Dulay 6, Grijaldo 4, Oreta 4, Yee 0, Dela Peña 0.

Quarters: 14-14, 29-31, 54-50, 68-65

HARBOUR CENTRE 87—Araña 17, Vergara 11, Lanete 11, Belga 10, Castro 9, Intal 8, Fernandez 6, Gamboa 4, Asoro 4, Alonzo 4, Gaco 2, Stephens 1, Capati 0.

HENKEL SISTA 62—Malabanan 11, Javier 10, Eman 9, Misa 9, Bonus 8, Matias 5, Villamin 5, Ebuen 2, Saldua 1, Yambao 0, Alfad 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 19-9, 47-23, 65-49, 87-62



Cebuana Lhuillier's Mark Yee (right) and Toyota Balintawak's Eugene Tan grapple for ball possession in their game yesterday. INQUIRER PHOTO / AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Imus Institute spikers win

IMUS INSTITUTE HIGH SCHOOL DOWNED Grace Christian School, 25-21, 17-25, 26-24, in the opening match yesterday of the 3rd season Shakey's Girl's Volleyball League (GVL) at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym.

Norie Jane Diez and Chairmaigne Bejasa combined for 14 points as Imus Institute posted its first win in three matches n Bracket C despite the absence of key player Sarah Sevilla. The 5-foot-4 Sevilla suffered a left foot injury in the final canto. Diez scored seven kills while Sharah So and Christine Lim combined for 21 points, including 11 kills, for Grace Christian.

"Tignan muna natin kung y'ung kondisyon ng bata (Sarah Sevilla) kung p'wede siyang maglaro bukas (Ngayong Linggo) dahil sa natamo niyang pagkapilay sa kaliwang paa." Said Imus Institute HS coach Louis Llanera.

Imus Institute coach Louis Llanera said Sevilla is a doubtful starter for their game against Philippine Institute Quezon City at 3:30 p.m. today.

In the second match of this Metro Sports event, Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) Greenhills beat Assumption Antipolo, 25-12, 25-16, to post its second straight win in Bracket B.

Kara Acebedo, Chyna Ledesma and Gretchen Ho netted 26 points, of which were 18 kills, for ICA.

In the third game, UP Integrated School (UPIS) beat Diliman Preparatory School, 25-9, 17-25, 25-19, for its first win in four matches in Bracket D.

At the start of the second set, UPIS spiker Southlyn Ramos was sidelined due to injury.

This year's Shakey's GVL champion team will be flown to Bacolod for the Tournament of Champions on July 18 to 21. Participating in this event will be the champions of the Shakey's GVL Bacolod, Cebu and Iloilo. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

CHAMP: Club Intramuros' Jess Montemayor (right) with Col. Pamboy Paredes, Felipe Judan and Jun Escano after receiving his prize for overall low net title in the 3rd leg of the 2007 San Mig Coffee Sugar Free Federation of Philippine Amateur Senior Golfers Inc. at the Riviera Langer course last Friday.

Stop Killing seeks redemtpion in Binay Cup

STOP TALKING (AUS) attempts to avenge her recent loss to champion sprinter Vivere as the two classy race mares clash anew in the 6th Mayor Jejomar Binay Cup today at the Santa Ana Park. The P440,000.00 Binay Cup, which will be complemented by the running of the European Union Cup and the PCSO Pugad Lawin Special Race, is set over 1,500 meters.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Perfect Time (3), First of All (1)
Race 2—(Tri)—In Excess (2), Strong Dancer (5), Regal Chief (4)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Lovely Tara/Fair Urduja (3), Power Dance (7)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Lightning Strike (1), Parrot Moe (7), Golden Lance (6), Words of Joy (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Daijobo's Success (5), Serious Susie (6), Dualargo (3), Cutting Edge/Earl Gray (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Celestial (12), Kawtiwili (9), Hurry Prince (4), Angel Eyes (6), Top Quest (13)
Race 7—(Tri)—Stop Talking (4), La Tienne (3), Vivere (5)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Naglalabyog (8), My Lucky One (7), My Rabbome (10), Prince Barry (4), Olive Oyl (12)
Race 9—(Tri)—Dancing Polly (5), Jet Sutter (2), Don Paolo (3)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Miguelito (7), King Anthony (4), Inca (6), Karphia (2)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bumble Bee (1), Kim Possible (11), Manila's Style (9), At All Cost (7), She's Coming (4)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hepburn (5), Si Isidro Ko (1), Taste Of Magic (8), Head Turner (7), Love Talk (2)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Iforannal (8), Reporter (6), Easy Rider (2), Five O'Clock (3), Ingay Ingay (5), Queen's Abbey (13)

Almeda-Perry prevails

THEY HAVE BEEN LONGTIME rivals in the Miata Cup but working together as a team, Joey Almeda and Joey Perry proved themselves the best as they became the first winners of the recent 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championshjp Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Almeda's multi-racing experiences and Perry's aggressive driving style blended so well aboard their Mazda-Miata that they bested eight other talented teams.

"It was a different experience," said Almeda, whose colorful racing career includes titles in slalom and motocross. "And we're proud to emerge as the very first champions of this event."

Early this year, Almeda also emerged as the 1st Ironman Driver after posting the best time in the Manila to Angeles race.

It was also the event that drew out the best from Perry who's been a perennial champion in the Miata Cup. He keyed the sweep of the first GT race.

JOEY Almeda (right) and Joey Perry flash a thumbs up sign after notching the victory.

GNC, Atleta 5 rip MBT foes

JERIC ILAGAN'S ATLETA AND JV BORromeo's GNC outplayed their respective rivals to jumpstart their title bids in the opening of the MBT-Athletes-In-Action Champions Challenge Cup recently at the Reyes gym in Mandaluyong.

Atleta, winner of the Division C title in the MBT Corporate Cup, dumped Chad's Bar, 89-77, while GNC, which topped the Division G, mauled Transco, 77-57, in the event aimed at promoting and spreading God's word through friendship and basketball.

League Director Mark Daniel Chan hopes that the tournament would be held annually under the supervision of MBT.

Also getting to a hot start was Nougat Candy of Mike Mancilla which trounced Cebuana Lhuillier of Danny Francisco, 89-59.

The game between Koi Village of Dario Gonzalgo and Royal Manchester Five of Dave Colina was reset to a later date. Matches are held every Monday and Tuesday.

Romel-Rico trade stirs hornet's nest

From page A25

In that clause, teams can seek the delisting of a restricted player if they can justify reasons for doing so.

Red Bull justified Villanueva's delisting by saying the former Ateneo ace was "insubordinate" and could no longer work with the organization. The league approved the delisting before the Seaba tournament.

But board members still want answers to nagging questions.

Trillo said that he has heard of "reports" about teams selling their players and admitted "that it would be very hard to prove. But it is an open secret."

"We may be stupid, but we're not dumb," he added.

Coca-Cola, before buying the team from San Miguel, lost practically the core of its squad to Barangay Ginebra, another side in the SMB umbrella, when the Gin Kings acquired Rudy Hatfield, Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril for a song.

"We all know our basketball, we've been here for a long time," Encarnado continued. "How can that trade be fair? I don't buy the reason they (Red Bull) stipulated in letting Villanueva go."

"So, if he (Villanueva) is so insubordinate, then why did we still take him to the National team," Encarnado asked. "And if he is so insubordinate, then why can't the Commissioner's Office penalize him accordingly."

"I don't know where the league is going to," Trillo, who was very cautious with his words, said in a separate interview.

"This is too much already. We just want to know what's going on because we're already at a loss."

When told that there are teams who sell their players in the guise of trades, Encarnado said: "We will never resort to selling our players. "

La Salle, Ateneo take war to V-League

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)
1 p.m.—Adamson vs UST
3 p.m.—FEU vs Letran
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

STANDINGS: Lyceum 5-0, San Sebastian 3-1, UST 2-1, Ateneo 2-1, La Salle 2-2, FEU 1-3, Adamson 0-3, Letran 0-4

EXPECT FIREWORKS TODAY AS ATENEO AND La Salle bring their rivalry to the Shakey's V League women's volleyball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

Ateneo would gain a share of second place with idle San Sebastian College at 3-1 with a win over tournament defending champion La Salle in their 5 p.m. encounter.

It would be a three-way tie for second spot if inaugural tournament champion University of Santo Tomas beats luckless Adamson in the 1 p.m. opener.

Adamson has yet to win in three starts, its last defeat inflicted by leader Lyceum last Thursday, 11-25, 11-25, 25-19, 15-25.

Far Eastern University eyes its second win against cellar-dweller Letran, holding a 0-4 record, in the 3 p.m. match. Letran would bow out of the semis race with another loss today.

Ateneo lost to Lyceum on opening day last May 17 but has since bounced back with victories over UST and Letran.

Guest player Michelle Laborte and Thai Kanchana Jindarat, also the assistant coach, have been providing the spark for the Ateneo spikers who could only finish fifth in the 2006 UAAP season.

The Lady Archers, whose twin losses were dealt by 2006 UAAP champion UST and 2005-2006 NCAA winner San Sebastian, can't seem to shake off the rust brought about by their year-long absence from the UAAP.

La Salle was suspended from all events in the 2006 UAAP wars because of the presence of ineligible players in its men's basketball team.

So far, only Lyceum has booked a ticket to the single-round, carryover semifinals which will feature the top five teams of the elimination round.

Romina S. Austria

PJB dominates tenpin open

By Romina S. Austria

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE JUNIOR Bowlers dominated the first day of the 36th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin bowling championships yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia Bowling Center.

PJB squads paced Day 1 of the men's and ladies' Class O and Class A doubles qualifying events of the tournament that features over 400 players, including participants from at least five other countries.

Ian Dychango and Ederick Florencio rolled a total of 835 pinfalls to take the opening day lead over Timberpro's Jay Carabeo and RJ Bautista (774) and PBA's RJ San Diego and Ted Robles in the men's Class O.

Two PJB squads pace the women's Class O, with Lara Posadas and Marjo Reyes leading Holly Josef and Apple Posadas, 706 to 614.

It's another PJB show in the men's Class A with Alfred Arreza and Collins Jose totaling 855 as against Brian Gabay and Carlos Candano's 779 total.

MTBA's Jonpaul Lim and Renier Pasquin occupy third spot with 721.

The ladies' Class A, produced a 1-2-3 finish by PJB, led by the 748 of Madeleine Llamas and Krizziah Tabora, followed by Mades Arles and Liza Vicente who posted a 689 and the pair of Niqui Bernabe and Anne Marie Kiac who tallied 564.

A close fight has ensued in men's class B with Imus' Jeff Ferrer and Roel Obaob just four points ahead of George Ongkeko and John Tiongson, 688 to 684, while third placers Kap Aguila and Marc Matias of Red Pin have a 681.

PBA's Tintin Robles and Nelia Santos are not too comfortable either in the ladies' Class B as their 686 total pinfalls are within striking distance of MTBA's Lingling de Guzman and Bettina Bayani who came up with a 682 and MBA's Lina Cadorniga and Becky Ramirez who made 681.

In the team event, LCTBA's Rolly Castillo, Lino Arroyo and Egay Latag produced 1116 pinfalls to pace the men's Class A while Steve Robles, Noel Palmes and Mike Robles trail at 1030.

Players from Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei are out to challenge the Philippines' top bowlers in this tournament that serves as the official national championships of the Philippine Bowling Congress.

Reigning world men's champion Biboy Rivera will defend his men's Masters championship which will award P250,000 to the winner. Korea's Kwang Hyun Jin won last year's ladies Masters.

OFF TO LOS ANGELES
Boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao (right) shepherds kids Emmanuel Jr. (middle) and Michael Stephen inside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport late Friday night. The three, along with Pacquiao's wife Jinglcy, flew to New York, where the ring icon will receive the Fighter of the Year award from the Boxing Writers Association of America on June 8. He is also slated to watch brother Bobby fight Humberto Soto on June 9 in Los Angeles. JESS YUSON

Pineda-Gaspar tops badminton doubles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

YOUNGSTERS AIRA PINEDA AND Malou Gaspar dominated the age-group field to steal the thunder from the main event of the third leg of the Yonex-Sunrise regional badminton championships at the Valencia sports center recently.

Pineda and Gaspar, both 14, beat BSC's Pauline Tan and Aimee Medios in the finals to take the 15-under girls doubles for the second straight leg after ruling it in the Pampanga edition.

The tandem from Pampanga caught the attention of national coach and chief organizer Errol Chan, who intends to recommend them for training camp in Japan.

"They are tall and their parents are very supportive of them," said Chan. "But they still have to wait until they turn 15 to be eligible for the training camp."

For the meantime, Chan said he will consider drafting them into the national development pool, the reason he included 15-under players in the top-level event that has lured national players.

"The level of skills and talents we have now is much higher than five years ago," said Chan of the crop of age-group winners that include Pampanga-Valenzuela's Angelo Naguit and Mervin Santiago in the boys doubles and Honesto Buedia of Mandaluyong City in the boys singles.

The Open and Class A categories are still ongoing as almost 500 players signed up for the tournament, forcing organizers to extend the competitions until the next weekend.

Also winning their events were Quezon City's Daniel Lewis and Guda Anton Cayanan in the 12-under boys doubles, Carlo Glen Remo and Cassandra Lim of Mandaluyong City in 12-under mixed doubles and Jessa Marie Lacadin and Angel Ang of Nueva Vizcaya in 12-under girls doubles.

In Open ladies doubles, Alabang's Edesa Padua and Gidgette Fernandez ruled Class B, Bulacan's Cris Cuisia and Jing Soriano won Class D, Nueva Ecija's Angie Venturina and Nerissa Cipres San Jose bagged Class E and Bulacan's Lala Deato and Arlyn Hadap topped Class F.

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Jankovic bundles out Williams

Serena is last American standing; No. 1 Roger smashes Potito

PARIS—VENUS WILLIAMS WAS **knocked out of the French Open on Friday, losing to fourth-seeded Jelena Jankovic, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, in the third round.**

Williams, who reached the final at Roland Garros in 2002 but missed the last two Grand Slam tournaments because of injuries, also lost to Jankovic in the third round at Wimbledon last year.

"I got a little bit tired at the end," Williams said. "It's tough on clay."

Serena Williams and two-time defending champion Justine Henin won, while top-ranked Roger Federer had no problems moving into the fourth round in the men's draw. Federer won the final nine games of his 6-2, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Potito Starace of Italy.

"It's difficult for everybody here at the moment with the conditions changing, the gusty winds and the cool conditions," said Federer, whose first-round match was played over two days because of rain. "So I'm happy to have put myself in the position of the fourth round already."

The 22-year-old Jankovic dominated five-time major champion Venus Williams in the first set, winning 20 of the 24 points played in her service games, including the first 10.

"I never had it in my mind that I was going to lose the match," said Jankovic, who won a clay-court warmup tournament in Rome last month to make her one of the favorites heading into the French Open.

ROGER Federer keeps it steady in a backhand return to Potito Starace. AP

Williams recovered in the second set, jumping out to 3-0 lead and holding on by breaking Jankovic in the 10th game to even the match. But Jankovic, who reached the semifinals at the 2006 US Open, broke Williams three times in the third set.

"The third set went a little bit faster than what I expected," Williams said. "I felt a little bit slow. I couldn't get my feet where I wanted them."

Serena Williams, who won the French Open title in 2002, had little trouble beating Michaella Krajicek of the Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4, while Henin defeated No. 28 Mara Santangelo of Italy, 6-2, 6-3.

"I didn't think I played well at all," Serena Williams said. "I'm trying not to peak too soon, but at some point I need to start playing better."

Federer, bidding for a fourth consecutive Grand Slam title, next faces No. 13 Mikhail Youzhny of Russia. Youzhny, a semifinalist at last year's US Open, beat 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-2, 6-2.

"I think he's a fantastic player," Federer said of the Russian. "I have to definitely be careful, even though I've never lost against him."

In other matches, No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko beat Michael Llodra of France, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, to reach the fourth round, while No. 9 Tommy Robredo of Spain defeated Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0, and No. 19 Guillermo Canas of Argentina beat Kristof Vliegen, 6-2, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Canas, who finished a 15-month ban for doping in September, beat Federer twice this year. The two would meet in the semifinals if they advance.

Filippo Volandri, who beat Federer in the third round of the Rome Masters, defeated No. 7 Ivan Ljubicic, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. The 29th-seeded Volandri and Federer could meet in the quarterfinals.

David Nalbandian survived a tough third-round match against Gael Monfils of France, winning 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (5). *AP*

Great Scott, Adam takes lead

SCOTT REUTERS

DUBLIN, OHIO—ADAM SCOTT WAS FRUSTRATED by hitting good shots and signing for mediocre scores. After a spirited chat with his caddie, both were determined to squeeze everything they could out of the second round at the Memorial on Friday.

Scott flirted with perfection at Muirfield Village, missing four putts inside 12 feet and still shooting a 10-under 62.

It gave him a one-shot lead over Rod Pampling, and he hopes it will be enough to shake off the golf gremlins that have been holding him back since his US PGA Tour victory in Houston two months ago.

"We just told each other what we thought about what's going on out there, a bit of a heart-to-heart, because we knew I was close to playing really well," Scott said of his talk with Tony Navarro. "Our idea was to come out and be focused."

Scott was at 12-under 132, one shot ahead of Pampling, who played bogey-free for a 68.

Tiger Woods shot a 72, leaving him 10 shots behind. *AP*

A second time around for Mother Nature...

Once again, students from elementary and high school districts of Nueva Ecija eagerly participated in CalEnergy International's Bigay Butil (Give-A-Seed Part II) campaign. Over 5,000 students of 31 school districts gathered and turned-over to CalEnergy and the National Irrigation Administration over 5,000 kilos of acacia and ipil-ipil seeds to help reforest the Casecnan Watershed. For their efforts, CalEnergy awarded the children with school supplies and materials and the top five school districts and the DepEd division office with computers and printers.

This endeavor is part of CalEnergy's Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program, which aims to rehabilitate more than 3,500 hectares of the lower Casecnan Watershed over a period of six years.

The program includes a communication and education component to raise the awareness of school children on the importance of trees in preserving the environment. To encourage the active involvement of school children, CalEnergy partnered with the Department of Education for the collection of seeds to help reforest the watershed.

CalEnergy launched the reforestation program in 2005 with the Give-A-Seed campaign, where school children from Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya gathered more than 4,000 kilos of Ipil-ipil and Acacia seeds. The seeds collected were nursed into saplings until they were ready for transplanting in the forest, while other seeds were scattered in the forest through aerial seeding and broadcasting.

The seeds collected by the school children two years ago have now grown and are cared for by the Bugkalot family stewards. The Bugkalots are indigenous people living around the watershed. They have been trained, educated and are being compensated for the stewardship of the seedlings and the timber plantation.

To date, over 800,000 trees have been planted in 453 hectares of denuded lands of lower Casecnan. More areas need to be reforested and seedling mortalities need to be replaced. In 2007, the target is to plant and grow approximately 700,000 trees over an additional 1,000 hectares of the watershed.

The reforestation program is consistent with CalEnergy's environmental RESPECT policy and is one of many efforts of CalEnergy to preserve, restore, protect and improve the environment for our children and future generations.

CE CASECNAN

DepED

King James delivers on promise of greatness

CLEVELAND—GREATNESS PROMISED. Greatness delivered.

With a tour-de-force performance that was one of the best in NBA playoff history, LeBron James shook the Detroit Pistons in Game 5 on Thursday in 50 spellbinding minutes that included two nerve-racking overtimes.

The 22-year-old superstar soared like never before. He scored 48 points—the Cavaliers' final 25 and 29 of their last 30—to carry Cleveland within one win of its first trip to the NBA finals.

At Detroit's suburban Palace, King James ruled.

"LeBron just wouldn't let us lose," Cavaliers guard Damon Jones said.

James stamped his growing reputation with all the fury of one of his thunderous slam dunks. He drove past Detroit's defenders, elevated to shoot over the Pistons and twisted through their double and triple teams as if in a playground back home in Akron.

The 48 points were spectacular, but hardly tell the whole story. He scored them in the biggest game of his four-year career. He scored them in the most important game in Cleveland's 37-year history. He scored them on the road, against the Pistons, one of the league's toughest defensive teams.

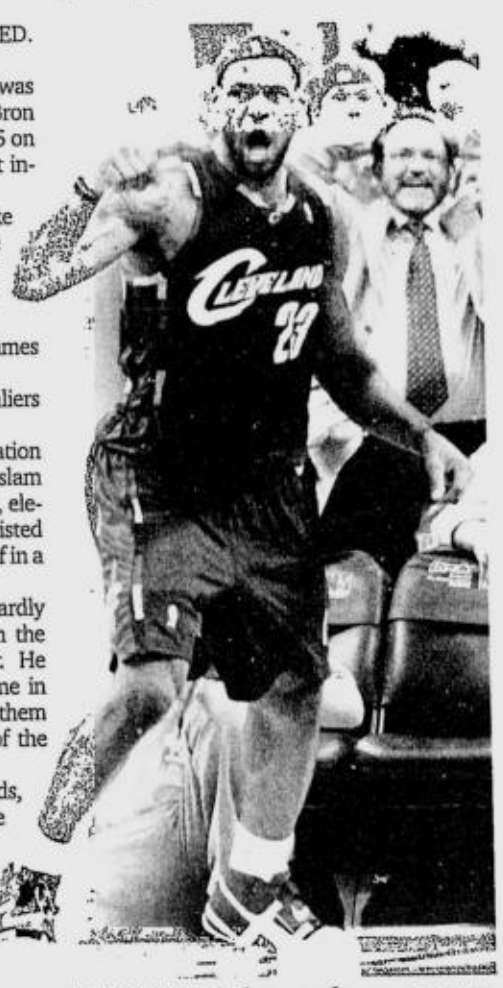
And James—who added nine rebounds, seven assists and two steals—scored the 48 a little more than one week after being lambasted for his late-game decisions in Games 1 and 2, a pair of three-point losses.

James became the first player to score 25 straight points in the postseason, an effort rivaling almost anything Michael Jordan did in the playoffs.

"He just did what he felt he needed to do for us to win," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said. "I don't think he was trying to set any historical mark or anything. I don't know what he can't do."

Physically and mentally drained following the game, James received an IV to guard against dehydration before leaving Detroit's home arena for the short flight back to Cleveland on Friday.

James' 48 points were the most scored against the Pistons since Nov. 23, 2001—a span of 590 games. It was also the highest-scoring game in Detroit by a playoff opponent since Elgin Baylor's 61 in 1961. It was the most points against the Pistons in the playoffs since Dominique Wilkins got 50 in 1986—when James was 1 year old.



JAMES: Tour-de-force performance REUTERS

After being ridiculed for passing up the last shot in Game 1, James kept the ball in the final seconds of Game 2 but missed on a final attempt in the lane. At home for Game 3, he scored 32 points with nine assists and nine rebounds. *AP*

Air21 hires NBC's Marquez

TAGAYTAY-SPRING COOKING OIL PLAYMAKER Niño Marquez made it to Air21 in the PBA yesterday, a development that overshadowed Pagadian's 84-62 rout of Montaña Davao in the NBC National Cup basketball tournament Friday night in Pagadian City.

The 5-foot-10 Marquez, who helped the Cooking Oil Masters post a 5-1 record in the NBC so far, was picked by Air21 from the free agent pool to replace injured Gary David in time for the Express' game against Ginebra San Miguel today.

"Niño is a big loss to our team," said Tagaytay-Spring co-owners NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and his EVP, Mayor Bambol Tolentino. "But we're very happy that he has finally realized his dream of playing in the PBA. We wish him well."

Marquez is averaging 12.5 points, 4.5 rebounds and 2.3 assists in the ongoing NBC Cup. He joins former Spring teammate MJ Caceres and fellow NBC stars Egay Echavez, Ronjay Enrile, Mark Magsumbol and Magnum Mambrere in the PBA.

Meanwhile, the Explorers (7-4) improved their chances for a top three finish in the tournament with the win.

After a tight first half, the Explorers hit their strides in the last 20 minutes to crush businessman Armando Quibod's Jewelers, whose usually fiery guards Henry Fernandez and Tonyboy Espinosa failed to get going.

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Sunday BIZ

Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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IN THIS ISSUE

Fish that appeals to all seasons and reasons /B2

Villagers' lives change with light bulbs/B3

From pineapples to budget flights

Lady exec breaks new ground in aviation

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE MERGER OF QANTAS-CONTROLLED Jetstar Asia and Valuair resulted in a lot of firsts.

It was the first major consolidation in Southeast Asia's crowded low-cost airline industry. But more importantly, Orangestar Holdings, the resulting company majority-owned by Australian carrier Qantas, has chosen a woman with no aviation experience as its chief executive officer: Chong Phit Lian.

Chong Phit Lian, first female CEO of Jetstar

Lian, who took up her assignment on March 15 this year, was the first woman and the first Singaporean to hold the position.

Jetstar Asia is a Singapore-based value-for-money airline that currently flies to 14 destinations in nine countries that include Australia, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Philippines, Myanmar and Taiwan.

"No airline experience is no problem be-

FROM PINEAPPLE/ B2

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Fish that appeals to all seasons and reasons

Zamboanga-based sardines firm gears up for mega exports

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A SAMPLE of Mega Sardines in different flavors and packaging.

PHOTOS BY JEROME C. DUMLAO

MEGA CEO William T. Lim.

MEGA Fishing's booth at the IFEX

AT THE RATE THAT MEGA FISHING CORP. is adding to its export markets, every household around the world will have a can of Mega Sardines in the cupboard.

Mega president William T. Lim tells SundayBiz that its sardines processed and packed in the processing facility in Zamboanga City are finding homes in over 20 countries, with more in the pipeline.

Mega Fishing currently exports to many parts of Asia including the Middle East. It also sends sardines to South America, South Africa, many countries in Europe and Africa, as well as the United States and Canada.

It expects to soon add the giant markets of Australia and New Zealand to the list, due in part to its array of food safety certifications that allow the entry of its products to these countries with strict environmental and food safety standards.

Lim says in an interview that the export volume has last year increased by 50 percent and he expects Mega Fishing to achieve the same growth this year as it aggressively looks for more markets.

What is good about sardines, he says, is that it appeals to all races and religious persuasions, unlike beef or pork which are not accepted in some countries due to religious reasons.

Also fueling the growth is the growing health consciousness among consumers in developed countries, making them prefer fish products over beef, pork and even chicken.

To think that it was just seven years ago when Mega Sardines made the move to produce its own brand of sardines.

For more than 30 years, Mega Fishing has just been getting fish for the other tuna canning companies in Zamboanga, the center of the sardine trade of the Philippines.

With its fleet of 55 fishing vessels equipped with the latest in sonar fish finders, Mega Fishing supplies as much as 80 percent of the fish used by the canning companies both in Metro Manila and Zamboanga.

It sources its fish from the rich fishing grounds of Sulu Sea, about seven hours to the west of Zamboanga.

Lim says it was actually from the other tuna companies that he got the idea of producing his own canned sardines.

"I was wondering why the other tuna canning companies were only getting the second and third class *tamban* that we get for them, and I learned that the simple reason was cost. They wanted the second class fish because it was cheaper," Lim says.

Knowing that the first-class fish will always be the best, he decided to expand into canning the fish himself through canning unit Ayala Seafoods Corp. and the Mega Sardines brand was born.

"I can safely say that we have the best product because we use only the freshest fish, from the catching to the canning," he says.

Mega Fishing claims it takes only 12 hours for the fish brought to its own pier to end up in the can, thus preserving much of the nutrients, taking full advantage of its control over the entire supply chain.

Mega Fishing has a 360-ton ice plant, considered the biggest in Mindanao, a 600-metric ton cold storage plant and an automated canning plant.

"We have machines that automatically cut the fish because we want as little human contact with the fish as possible," he says.

Lim explains that coming up with a high quality product was the only way for Mega Sardines to stand out among the many sardine brands competing for the customers' attention and money, both here and abroad.

The local market has been good to Mega Fishing, Lim says, but he is betting on an even more dramatic growth from the export side of the business, and the Department of Industry, through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions is helping him find those markets.

A world map showing the countries where Mega Sardines is exported to keeps Lim true to his vision.

There are just over 20 countries now with Mega Sardines, Lim says, but not for long.

From pineapples to budget flights

From page B1

cause Ms Chong brings with her a wealth of management and business development experience," the company said in a statement.

Breaking ground with humor

Chong is no stranger to breaking new ground.

She was the chief executive and president of The Singapore Mint before taking the helm at Jetstar, and recalls to SundayBiz in an interview that in her first meeting with fellow mint masters from other countries, she was the only female and was mistaken for a guest instead of a delegate.

"When I was at the registration, they asked me where my boss was. I said 'He is not here.' Then they asked where my husband was, and I said, 'He is not here.' And so they asked where Mr. Cong Phit Lian is. I said, 'I am Chong Phit Lian.' It was funny," she says with a laugh.

She was also director of several companies in travel, hotel, lifestyle and leisure businesses within Singapore's SembCorp Industries Group covering Singapore, Malaysia, China and Spain.

Extreme multitasking

Chong says that to keep her staff motivated, she makes sure that she works as hard or even harder than them. She says this makes them appreciate each other.

"All my staff members work hard, and I have to work hard too, for them to see that we are all working hard. I can be tough, sometimes I just speak my mind and some cannot take it ... but we try to do what must be done," she says.

Even at a young age, Chong had showed leadership skills and a knack for multitasking.

Her father suddenly passed away when she was a teenager, and she had to help provide for the family because her mother was unemployed.

AS A TEENAGER, she had to help provide for the family because her mother was unemployed.

'No one else can do what you can do, so do it'

SINGAPORE-BASED value-for-money airline that currently flies to 14 destinations in nine countries

"When my father was alive, he would give me pineapples and I would peel them, cut them up and sell them outside the house. So working was nothing new to me, and since I saw that I was the one capable of doing something, I just did it. I ate once a day, worked and studied," she says.

Chong found odd jobs while continuing her studies, even working as a teacher to finance her studies at the Singapore Polytechnic for three years.

"I would borrow books to teach the advance courses that I had not taken up yet, and I looked forward to my tutorial classes because my students would give me, say, three cookies, and I would eat one and keep the two. Or they would give me noodles to eat, and even some to bring home because they knew I was poor," Chong recalls, smiling at the memories.

Chong says that she later wanted to go for further studies in the United Kingdom, for which she and her mother borrowed money.

Off she went to the University of Aston, where she completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Production Engineering and Manufacturing Technology. She worked part time to send money home while paying for tuition and other costs.

Counting blessings

She then went back to Singapore and worked on just a few hours' sleep. Over the years, she managed to buy a house for her mother and herself, and established her own family.

"I was lucky because I had good bosses who did not mind hiring a woman. Because my mother and my brother's family stayed with us, my children had many adults and cousins to help them when I am working," she says.

On the day of the interview, Chong says she had arrived at home in Singapore at 1 a.m. the previous day, had three hours' sleep, went to work and was told that night that her daughter was not feeling well.

That same night, she arranged for a doctor's appointment for her daughter online and asked for help for her daughter before flying off to the Philippines, where she would stay the night and then fly to yet another destination.

"It's good to have e-mail. Before I go to sleep, I try to arrange everything I need for the next day, even if it's just to e-mail what I want done. Because when I wake up, I have no time to make arrangements, I have to start working. And even though I cannot personally accompany my children, for example, I make sure they are taken care of," Chong says.

All this, while having her hands full getting Jetstar to take off in an already intensely competitive low-cost carrier market in Singapore.

"We always hear this: Just do it! It's true. No one else can do what you can do, so do it," she says.

Villagers' lives change with just a few light bulbs

AS THE LIGHT BULBS FLICKERED TO LIFE and lighted up Barangay Rifao in North Upi for the first time last February, the Teduray villagers were ecstatic. It was a turning point for people who had gotten used to hard work. The 50-watt peak lighting system was more than enough to brighten up their nipa huts—two fluorescent lamps for the rooms and two white bulbs for the kitchen and veranda.

The solar-powered lighting systems are provided by the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (Amore) program to far-flung, off-grid villages mostly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Launched in 2002, Amore is a partnership of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Energy, Mirant Philippines Foundation, the ARMM and Winrock International.

Rifao is one of the 36 barangays in the province of Shariff Kabunsuan to be energized by Amore.

Carved out from its mother province, Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan has one of the highest poverty index rates in the ARMM. Yet the area has promising growth potentials with its rich coastal and forest resources, vast agricultural lands, and people with a firm resolve to improve their lot.

Ofelia Moafot's family can now be seen working on their baskets at their veranda even at dusk. "This will give us better income," says Joanna, Ofelia's eldest child who acquired from her mother the skill of making intricate designs for baskets, bags and other handicraft. It was Ofelia's grandmother who had the original talent for weaving, which made Rifao popular for its uniquely designed Teduray handicraft. The skill was handed down from generation to generation. Basket weaving is not an easy job, selling them is even harder. It takes at least two days to put together all the materials needed to weave a regular-sized basket or bag, as the '*uway*' (rattan) and the '*pandan*' leaves need to be harvested from the woods a few kilometers from the village. When all the materials are ready, the weaving itself will take two more days, depending on how intricate the design is. All the members of the Moafot family know how to weave, so they are able to finish six bags in four days. To sell the bags, they travel 20 km to the nearest town market by taking the *habal-habal* at P200 per person. The bags and baskets can be sold at P150 pesos but buyers haggle down to P85 each.

With the light, the Moafots can weave at night to double their income. So can the other households who rely on their corn yield for income. The Garcia family has put one of their light bulbs at their backyard window so they can shell corn even at night and have them ready by day for sun drying.

Plans for the future

People in neighboring villages plan to transfer to Rifao to avail of the light. The Barangay Renewable Energy and Community Development Association (Brecda), organized by Amore to manage the lighting projects, has become agents of change in the village. A barangay electrification plan outlines steps in ensuring that the Brecda will be able to procure more lighting systems for the other members of the community.

To do this, members are contributing to their operation and maintenance fund, deposited in a bank at the town center. To date, the Rifao Brecda has P33,000 in their savings account from the subscription fees collected even before the lighting systems were installed. They will deposit their monthly tariff collection of P280 per member by the end of this month. Manong Garcia, chair of the Brecda, foresees that they will be able to collect enough money to buy additional systems by year-end.

TO SELL the baskets, villagers travel 20 kilometers.

Go-to performers

From page B4

know when to press their opinions and when to back off on nonessentials. At the same time, they have an unwavering standard of excellence which they refuse to compromise. By setting the bar high for performance, they raise the level of excellence throughout their sphere of influence.

4. They are networkers

Go-to performers value connectedness. They naturally lend advice, talents, and relationships to others, and, in doing so, develop a web of friends and supporters. When a favor is needed, they have an ample network from which to draw.

5. They think outside of the box while acting inside the box

Go-to performers aren't bound by conventional thinking. They readily step beyond traditional systems to explore a realm of possibility. At the same time, go-to performers have the emotional intelligence to invite others into their creative process.

Managing a go-to performer

1. Challenge them

As Gandz observes, go-to performers, "Are natural high achievers and sometimes the biggest challenge is keeping them challenged."

2. Value them

Go-to performers, given their dependability and capacity to excel, often are handed a disproportionate share of the workload. Although likely to enjoy having a lion's share of responsibility, go-to players may feel taken for granted if they don't receive recognition.

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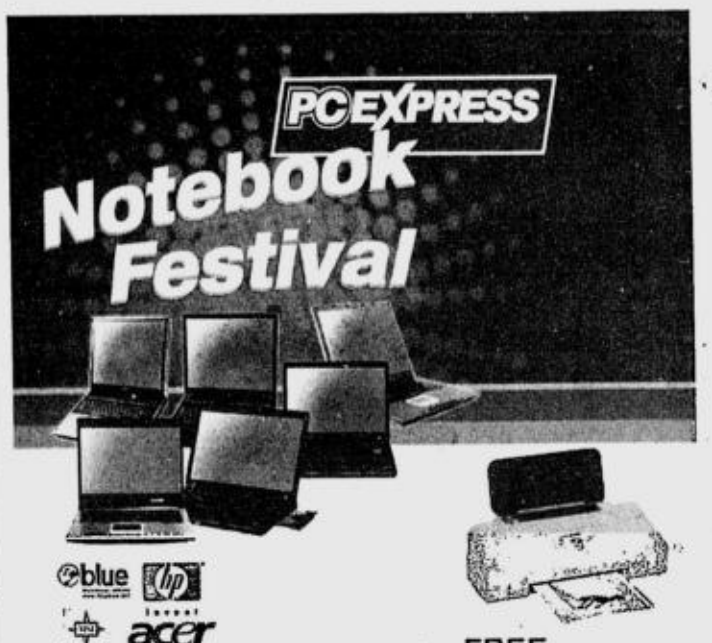

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Go-to performers

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN BASKETBALL, WHEN THE GAME is on the line, coaches want to get the ball in the hands of their best player. They design plays that go to the player with the greatest skill, and they trust that player to make the game-winning shot.

Businesses, like sports teams, also have go-to people. These high performers can be counted upon to come through in the clutch. They are entrusted with the biggest projects, and they are expected to deliver.

Since they have a track record of success, go-to players are called upon to respond to challenges and orchestrate turnarounds.

In the Ivey Business Journal, Jeffrey Gandz, gives a snapshot of a go-to performer, and he lends advice on managing them.

Qualities of a go-to performer

1. They are politically astute without being corporate politicians

Go-to performers can navigate the interplay of personal interests within the workplace without falling prey to selfish ambition. They attractively promote company values and esteem organizational success on par with personal advancement.

2. They have power, but prefer to empower

A go-to performer recognizes that sharing power is preferable to hoarding top-down authority. Such a person empowers teammates and draws out the best from those around them.

3. They are negotiators with a non-negotiable impulse for success

Go-to players are pragmatists. They expertly arrive at compromises to unify the members of the organization. They

GO-TO/B3

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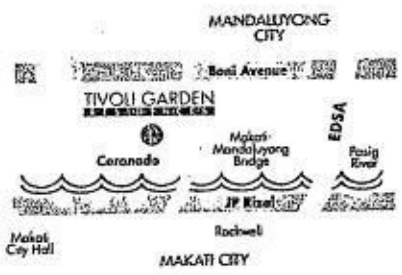

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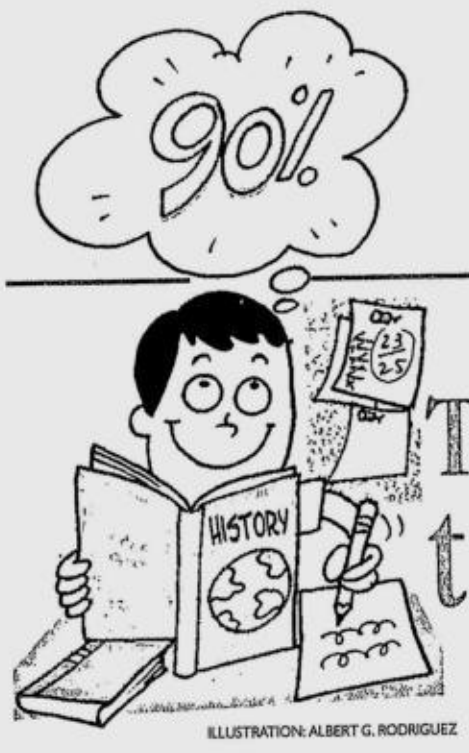

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Three things teachers wish students knew

With proper support, good habits and the right mindset, learning can be endured and even enjoyed

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHEN I ASK MY STUDENTS: "HOW can you make the most of school?" they dutifully recite stock answers: Study hard. Come to school prepared. Do not cram. Avoid cheating. Better behave in class, or else.

I agree with everything, except the last one. I would rather have a class of lively students who challenge everyone with insights, rather than a group of silent automatons who regurgitate everything I say.

That said, my students have missed important points. Study hard, yes, but study wisely, too. Come to school prepared, not just with materials, but also with SMART goals. Do not cram, so make sure to master the basics beforehand. Avoid cheating, certainly, but outside of exams, never be afraid to ask for help.

Set SMART goals

Companies expend a lot of effort on five- or 10-year plans. Bankers help us save for retirement. Learners also need to set goals—SMART goals.

A goal is Specific. What do you want to accomplish? Instead of saying: "I want to be a good student," which is vague, state the goal clearly: "I want to get an average of 90 percent in History by the end of the quarter."

A goal is Measurable. You need to keep track of your progress. For example, "So far, I have received good scores on three quizzes. I need to practice my oral presentation, so I can maintain my average."

A goal is Action-Oriented. Merely dreaming about a good grade is not enough. You need to take action to achieve your goal. "To do well in History, I need to do my assignments and read the textbook regularly."

A goal is Realistic. Decide if a goal is attainable in the first place, and then think about how much effort, time and resources you can expend to reach your goal.

When I was a freshman in college, my goal was to learn as much math and English as I could, and do my best in other subjects. However, advanced placement classes meant solving math problems and writing compositions every day, on top of homework and term papers in other subjects. I was a class officer and a member of the Math Club, with frequent meetings and activities. To top it off, I yearned to be part of the swim team, which entailed frequent lengthy practice sessions.

I managed time pretty well, but there was no way I could do everything. Something had to give. I did not want to lose sight of my goal, which, after all, was mainly academic. There was no way I could sacrifice my studies. So with great reluctance, I dropped the swim team. In this lifetime, I would never be Christine Jacobs, but I could be a mathematician.

A goal is Time-Bound. How much have you achieved at a certain point? "If I want a good grade in History at the end of the quarter, which is a month away, do I focus more on the textbook, or do I revise my term paper? If both, how much time do I spend on each task?"

Ask for help

Seek help at the first sign of trouble. Students dread report card time, but I will tell you a secret: so do teachers. Parents, tutors and the rest of the extended family descend en masse to threaten or plead with teachers to "reconsider" failing marks. By then, it is too late.

When we fall ill, we go to the doctor at once. When we are hungry, we look for something to eat. Why then do students delay seeking help when they don't understand a lesson?

On the first day of class, I tell my students: "When you do not understand something, please seek help at once. Turn to a classmate, do research in the library or on the Net, ask your parents or consult me. If you let the little problems pile up, then you will be over

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Why tutors matter

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

IN OUR EVER-COMPETITIVE world, how far can we, as parents, guide our children to success? We all struggle with trying to put our children on the right path, as our own parents struggled with us when we were young.

Having had children now for over two decades, I have seen so many changes in the educational system, especially in the area of tutoring. Way back, kids would be taught by their Moms immediately after getting home from school.

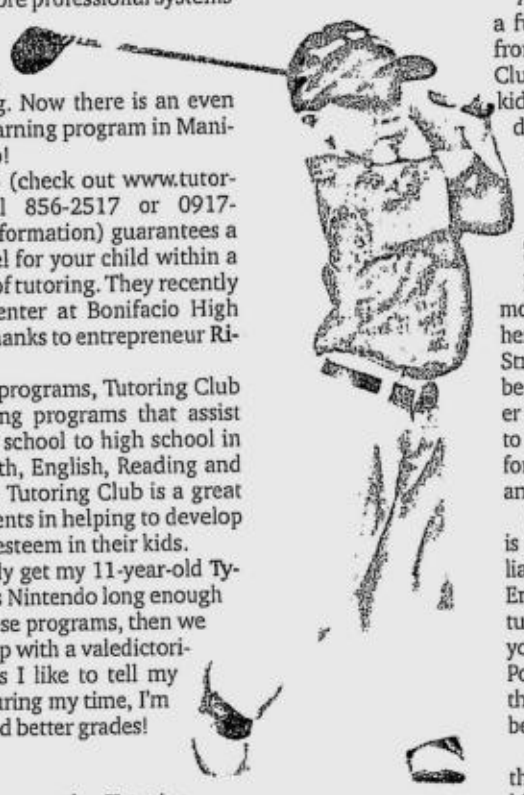
With the advent of dual-income families—are there still housewives these days?—the homework job fell to tutors. But the range of so-called tutors was quite wide, from teachers doing part-time work to dandified maids with dubious qualifications.

A few years ago, more professional systems came to scene, notably Kumon and their after-school, drill-based mentoring. Now there is an even more new-fangled learning program in Manila—the Tutoring Club!

The Tutoring Club (check out www.tutoringclub.com or call 856-2517 or 0917-8488867 for more information) guarantees a higher academic level for your child within a set number of hours of tutoring. They recently opened their first center at Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City, thanks to entrepreneur **Rico Bautista.**

With its TutorAid programs, Tutoring Club has exclusive learning programs that assist children from grade school to high school in key subjects like Math, English, Reading and Writing. In this way, Tutoring Club is a great aid to frustrated parents in helping to develop confidence and self-esteem in their kids.

Now, if I could only get my 11-year-old **Tyrone** to put down his Nintendo long enough to get into one of these programs, then we might finally come up with a valedictorian in our family! As I like to tell my Mom, if I had this during my time, I'm sure I would have had better grades!


5-YEAR-OLD wonder. Jungolf's Philippe Winsett at the ceremonial tee off

Kiddie shops

While the kids are at the Tutoring Club, Moms can visit a number of shops in Bonifacio High Street. This outdoor strip mall is fast becoming an exciting destination with its mix of hip and funky shops.

As I like to tell my Mom, if I had tutors during my time, I'm sure I would have had better grades!

Among these are Crocs, the home of comfy rubber clogs that has become the footwear of choice from chefs in the kitchen to surgeons in the operating room.

For more serious footwear, there is Nike Park, where one runs the potential of bumping into serious triathletes like **Fernando Zobel de Ayala** or **Fred Uytengsu**. I've always wanted to be able to say, hey, we have the same Nike+ running gear! Except mine are pink, of course.

Another reason to walk down High Street is a fun little shop called Club Princess. Aside from selling the cutest glitter accessories, Club Princess also does total makeovers with kiddie salon services. Owned by a fabulous duo, graphic artist **Mye Cruz** and party planner **Angelette Calero**, the club has turned many little girls into princesses, divas and rock stars.

Sesame Street, Pokemon concerts

My little **Athena** may have to wait a few more months but she'll get there. Toddlers like her will surely enjoy the upcoming Sesame Street Show Live, from July 18-22. Tickets will be on sale soon so watch out for that. Organizer **Glenn Llamas** told me it took him five years to bring the show over so it'll be really exciting for the kids to see the whole gang, with **Ernie** and **Bert** and my favorite, Miss Piggy.

Speaking of kids' shows, the Pokemon Crew is coming to Manila on June 6, courtesy of Alliance Francaise de Manille and the French Embassy. This hip-hop dance company features 20 dancers from the Lyon Opera doing young and modern dances, with names like Pockepop and Smockemon. Sounds like a cool thing for the teens in the family. The show will be held at the CCP Main Theater at 8 p.m.

And if the budget doesn't allow for shows, there's always the Ayala Land mall tour. My kids and I recently ventured to the Greenbelt-inspired Trinoma in North EDSA. Lots of greenery and amazing water-suspension fountains are just some of the features of this new mall at the end of the MRT line. Even if the mall is not yet totally operational, giant flagship stores have already opened and the crowds were phenomenal, dare I say, SM-esque? Our mall-loving countrymen will always be enticed by the urge to splurge.

Junior golfers

When children grow up and do well, their parents are proud—especially if the child ends up being president of a company. At the 5th INQUIRER Hundred Presidents Golf Invitational, I got the chance to meet quite a number of CEO's and successful businessmen, all getting in touch with their inner child for that early morning round of golf.

Aside from the already successful presidents, the tournament's focus was also on the budding Jungolfers—each one was given the chance to play in a foursome with the businessmen. So while the kids amazed the adults with their booming drives and confident games, the adults also gave the kids tips on how to become successful businessmen.

The event was opened with a joint tee-off shot by PDI Chair **Marixi Prieto** and her husband, **Alex** (who happen to be my parents). Later, after everyone had explored the Wack-Wack East Golf Club, some more extensively than others, an awarding ceremony was held in the clubhouse. My sister **Sandy Romualdez**, PDI president and a fantastic golfer herself, topped off the event with a donation to the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines.

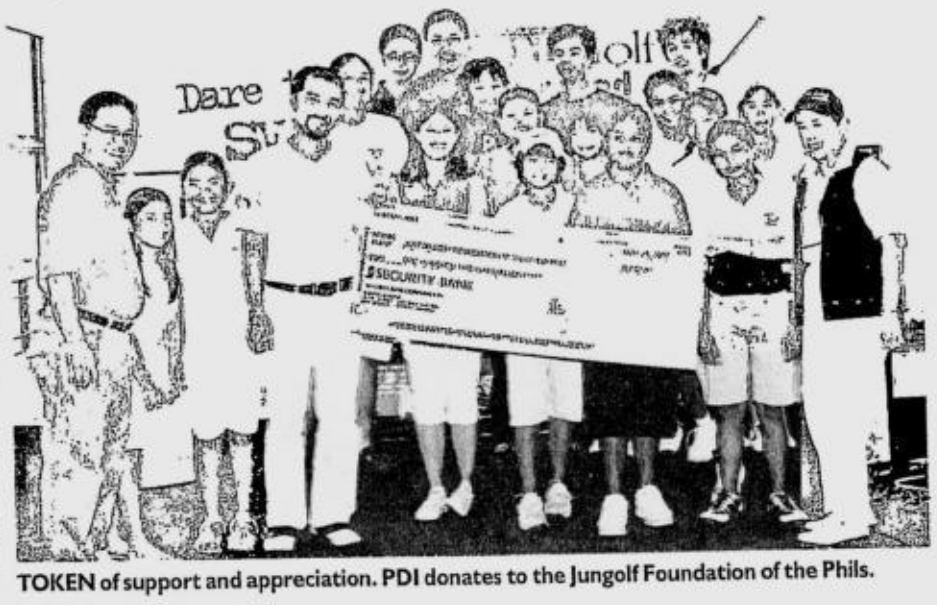
Most invited

It's always nice to see a live Who's Who list in action, especially when these successful businessmen are struggling on a golf course. When the live version isn't available, there's always the print version. And as lists go, arguably the Tatler's Most Invited List is the list of lists.

This year's Most Invited List is out again in Tatler's June issue and I'm sure there will be lots of angst and hand wringing in Manila over the next few weeks. The June issue itself is a wonderful re-design of this venerable magazine, featuring a new matte paper and cleaner, uncluttered pages. **Anton San Diego** has had his hands full coming out with the magazine and the re-design, but it's all good as the magazine and its cover model, **Margie Moran**, are gorgeous.

In our ever-competitive world, my own thought is we should never worry about whether we are on a list or not. The only measure of success is whether we are happy in what we do—and it is this relaxed, stress-free existence that we should all strive to teach our children.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph


TOKEN of support and appreciation. PDI donates to the Jungolf Foundation of the Phils.

MONEY shot. Sanjiv Vohra of Citibank in top form

RIGHT on target. Gil Genio of Innove Communications

FLYING high. Cebu Pacific's Charlie Manio

MCDONALD'S Kenneth Yang with Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

REGAN de Guzman with INQUIRER Golf editor Jong Arcano

FAB friends Ana K-Lim, Angelette Calero, Anton Barretto, Leah Puyat and Malu Gamboa

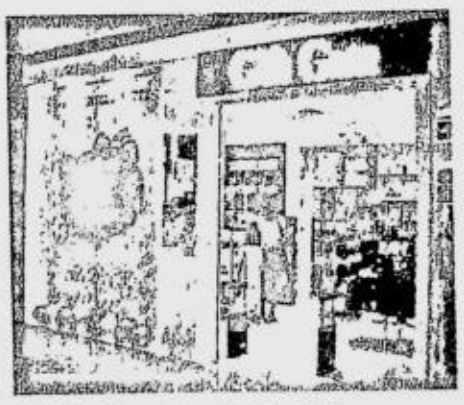
COOL dude on the course. ASec Roberto Lastimoso of MRT3

LEICA Carpo with PLDT's Finina Gorres win the ladies division.

JUNGOLFERS Mia Legaspi and Ryan Monsalve pose with Sea Princess.

PDI Working Committee headed by INQ AVP and marketing director Jocel Adorable

CLUB Princess interiors


FUN Gift Gate shop for girls of all ages

SONNY Africa and daughter Annie shopping in Trinoma

VINCE Gomez and Justice Art Panganiban with the Prieto family

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Building bridges between home and school

In order for a child to succeed and do well during the school year, it is very important that parents and teachers become allies

THE RAINS ARE NOW UPON US, AND IN A few days a new school year begins.

Once again, parents like me find ourselves straddling that complex and tender terrain—the borderlands between home and school. In order for a child to succeed and do well during the school year, it is very important that parents and teachers become allies in the very important and crucial work of nurturing, guiding and teaching children to become the best that they can be.

Unfortunately, that isn't always the case. Every school year presents a challenge to the involved and hands-on parent to create a partnership with the school and the child's teachers—that is, a collaborative and empathetic partnership rather than an adversarial and competitive one.

A child is the center of every parent's world. A good and discerning teacher knows that and will naturally place the child's best interests at heart.

In my many years as a parent of both a grade-school and a high-school student, I've had my fair share of both heartwarming and horror stories of encounters with my children's teachers. I know some of them really try their best to communicate with their student's parents but because the class size is just too large, the message does not get across.

On the other hand, there are teachers who also try their very best to open the lines of communication but sometimes, unfortunately, there are also parents who keep putting off meeting with their child's teacher until it is very late.

What can parents do to make sure that the bridges we build between home and school are sturdy? That they can withstand the rigors of everyday pressures that come from academic demands and the responsibilities that parents have at home and at work?

Regular communication

First, regular, two-way communication is an essential key to building a harmonious home-school relationship. As a parent, you know your child best. Your child's teacher should respect and recognize that wisdom.

On the other hand, your child might be exhibiting behavior or attitudes at school that he does not manifest at home. As his mother or father, you need to be open also to what your child's teacher may have to say about your child. Let the teacher know how you think your child learns best and what motivates or turns off your son or daughter. Ask your child's teacher how she would like you to be involved in your child's learning process, and be upfront if you cannot perform accordingly so that adjustments can be made.

Second, be involved in your child's school as much as you can. Studies have shown that children of parents who consistently show up during parent-teacher meetings and are involved in their children's school activities have a higher academic average than children of parents who show minimal involvement.

No matter how busy you are, parent-teacher conferences (PTC's) are a must-attend. Many corporations have now become more sensitive to the needs of working moms and as long as a mom gives due notice, bosses will allow you time off from work.

On the other hand, I'm glad to see a rising trend among fathers who make themselves present at school PTC's and orientation days. After all, parenting is supposed to be a partnership. There was a time when such conferences were the bastion of mothers. Thankfully, there has been a marked improvement in paternal participation, which is so important, more so if you have a son.

Be aware of what goes on in your child's academic and personal life at any given time. On a daily basis, as much as you can, especially if your children are under the age of 10, check his or her homework notebook and ask your child if there are any notices or letters given from school.

Younger children will have a tendency to forget, while older children, especially when the news is not to their liking, will "conveniently" forget. Show your child that you are genuinely and consistently involved in their school life. They will appreciate your concern (even if they don't show it) and will remember that they need to be on top of things as well.

If you are concerned about your child's performance or note some behavioral changes, talk to the teacher about it. Do not be shy about making an appointment with your child's teacher if you deem it necessary. The next PTC might be too late to discuss your concerns. However, be cognizant also, and this is true in big, traditional schools, that a teacher will normally have, on the minimum, 200 names to remember, which translates to an overloaded schedule.

Give ample time to request for a conference and write down all the points you need to discuss. It will be easier to remember what you want to talk about, especially if you only have a limited time.

Rainbows and silver linings

My family and I have just returned from Albay to complete an outreach project that three of my good friends and I set to accomplish this summer.

In 1982, Vina Francisco from Assumption, Alya Honasan from Teresiana (now Poveda), Dimples Reyes from St. Paul's and I were gangly, wide-eyed freshmen at the Ateneo de Manila University. Twenty-five years hence, we celebrated our individual high-school jubilees and at the same time asked ourselves if we had stayed true to what the Jesuits had drilled into our heads as college students—to be "Women for Others."

We put together 500 "Silver Lining '82" toiletry bags containing shampoo, soap, laundry bars and other sundries for the mothers living in the Anislag resettlement area in Daraga, Albay—one of the areas hardest hit by Typhoon Reming. Thanks to the generous hearts who made the outreach possible and to corporate donors Lamoiyan Corporation for the Hapee toothpaste and toothbrushes; So-en for the women's underwear; Tiger ballpens; and Splash Corp. for the Biolink lotion they provided.

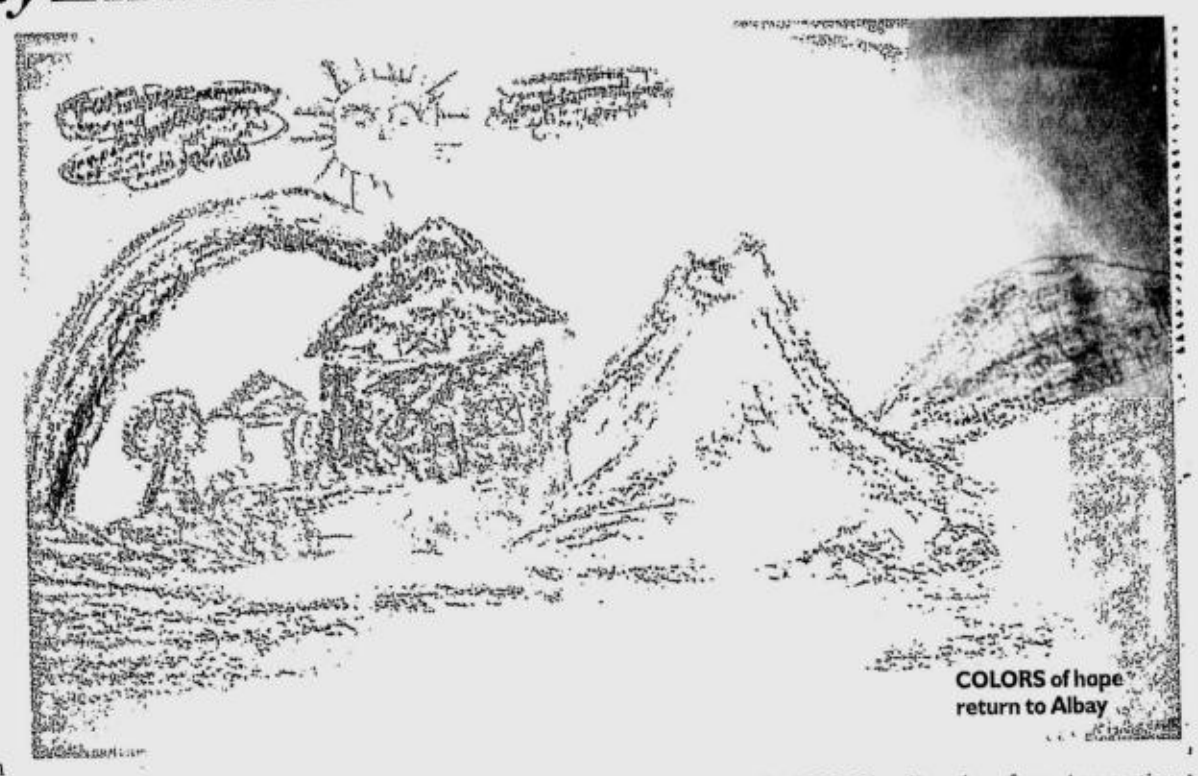
In memory of my son Migi's 9th angel date today, we also gave away teddy bears brought in by the United States Embassy Club, and donated by the Build-A-Bear Company and the Bears Beyond Borders foundation.

Seven months ago, these children had struggled valiantly against the wrath of Reming, losing property and, for some, parents and siblings as well. Today, you can see through the children's eyes and in their artwork that hope has returned even as they continue to live in temporary shelters in the resettlement area.

Lacking schools, classes will be held in open-air makeshift tents. The children at Anislag are in dire need of basic school materials: notebooks, pencils, coloring materials, pad paper, etc., because in spite of the loss, life and learning need to go on.

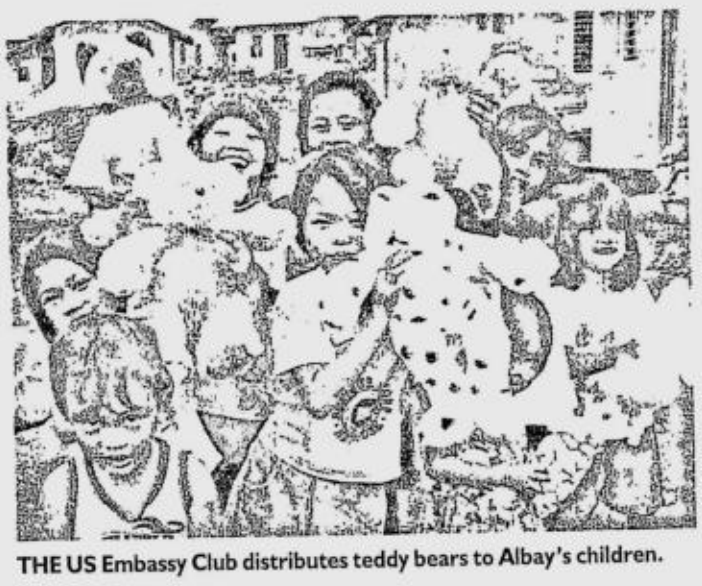
I hope as you shop for your children's school supplies, you will remember Albay's children and share some of your blessings with them. If you wish to help out and donate school materials, please e-mail silverlining1982@gmail.com or call 926-9381996.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com



COLORS of hope return to Albay

"SILVER Linings" for Albay mothers



THE US Embassy Club distributes teddy bears to Albay's children.

Three things teachers wish students knew

From page C1

whelmed later on."

In a class of 40 students, it is impossible for teachers to meet the learning needs of everyone. One-on-one tutorials may be essential for slower or faster learners. I inform students of my regular consultation hours, and I am happy that many of them use this opportunity to enhance learning. For students who need to brush up on the basics, I go through exercises with them in detail. For those who prefer a challenge, I discuss advanced topics or pose more complex problems.

Teachers—good teachers, at least—welcome questions. Last year, when my son was in Grade 2, his Science teacher told me: "I like the fact that Scott is not afraid to ask questions if he wants to clarify things. I especially admire him for doing the asking himself. Mostly, parents are the ones who call me up, and sometimes I wonder if they or their sons are the ones with the questions. I hope they are not doing the homework for their kids."

When the teacher discusses a lesson, review the details later in the day, even if the test is still far away. If a point is not clear, reflect on it for a while. If you really cannot understand it, then seek help as soon as possible. Do not close your eyes and pray that you will never see the topic again. According to Murphy's Law, the topics you don't know are most likely the ones you will meet in the test.

Master the basics

My friend was frantic. "Can you help my daughter? She does not know division and she has a test next week. I have been sitting beside her for four hours, and we have not made progress. Now I am yelling at her, and she is crying. I don't know what to do."

Sure enough, her daughter, whom I will call Riza, could not do division. But what my friend neglected to mention was that Riza could barely do multiplication either. Four hours—even four times four hours—of hard work was not the best strategy here. If Riza did not know that 4 times 6 is 24, then how could she tackle 24 divided by 4?

Riza's problem was not so much division itself, but lack of mastery of the skills required for division. I was not surprised to learn that Riza had also flunked a previous test for multiplication.

"Can't we just do division now, and go back to multiplication next time," she pleaded, "since the coming test will be on division anyway?"

Sorry, no way. New knowledge builds on prior learning and, for a subject like math, where one concept leads to another, mastery of the basics is essential. For the next four days, we did nothing but multiplication. I introduced songs, pointed out number patterns and advised Riza to eat memory-boosting foods.

We studied division only during the last two days, but by then, spurred by freshly learned multiplication facts and a giant fear of failure, Riza was able to grasp the concepts. She got 80 percent on the test, and would have gotten higher if she had finished the 50 items.

Of course, to totally master a topic, how could a week, however intensive it had been, ever be enough?

Once, when I asked a student why he failed a test, he admitted: "I did not understand Chapter Two, so I skipped the pages and went to Chapter Three. But I got lost. I was hoping to catch up in the next chapter, but things got worse."

Studying hard is important, but it is also essential to study wisely. If you cannot comprehend a complex topic, chances are you have not understood the concepts leading up to it. Instead of banging your head on the proverbial wall, or worse, giving up, why don't you go back to earlier lessons? Again, seek help if needed.

Learning is not easy, but then, things worth doing seldom are. But with the right mindset, proper support and good habits, learning can not only be endured, but even enjoyed as well. Have a great school year!

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. E-mail her at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Back-to-school promo

TO MARK THE START OF ANOTHER school year, retail giant Shopwise has an ongoing promo called Rock Enroll.

Twenty-one shoppers can win the latest Hewlett Packard (HP) personal computers. For every P300 single purchase worth of any snacks and beverage items or any P100 worth of participating sponsor products, customers are entitled to a raffle coupon to join the Snacks Around the Clock promo until June 17.

Snacking is a cool way to recharge and an opportune time to swap stories with friends and classmates. With Shopwise's wide assortment of snacks and beverages, students will have more to munch and plenty to share with their peers, and moms need not worry what to pack for their children.

Catch "Elvis" (an Elvis Presley look-alike) on Sundays until June 10, as he tours Shopwise branches to pose for pictures with adoring fans. To join the Elvis is in the Shop! promo, simply make a P500 single receipt purchase inclusive of any sponsor products.

Shopwise is located in Alabang; Makati; Libis; Araneta Center, Cubao; Antipolo; Harrison Plaza Mall, Manila; and along Sucat Road, Parañaque.

IT'S back-to-school time with Shopwise's Rock Enroll promo.

NONOY Buncio, Nazario Regino, Francis de Borja, Dr. Joey Uranza, Veni Novenario-Jamir, Cleo Dalao-Kornfeld Standing: Johnny Malig, Rolly Peña, Egberto Dela Fuente, Rosalinda Perez-Nepomuceno, Rosa I. De Leon, Carmen S. Gatmaytan, Ernesto B. Marcelo, Lilian Niguidula-Salanguit, Sandy Borres, Purita O. Fajota, June Bobis-Principe, Mindaflor T. Brandares and Rody G. Bagabaldo

UP High Class '57 prepares . . .

From page C4

abreast of each other and informed of projects to be undertaken by the Golden Jubilarians for their alma mater and their surviving teachers.

The committee is requesting members to submit their bio-data; two (2) wallet-size pictures for inclusion in the Jubilee Edition. Class members are likewise requested to send old photos of class activities taken circa '53-'57. Meetings will be held regularly to report on the progress of the committee work. Notices of these meetings will be posted in the Jubilee website.

UP High Class '82 (Silver Jubilarians) will host the grand alumni homecoming in the UPIS campus with Class '57 as honorees together with Pearl, Sapphire, Coral, Ruby, Emerald and Diamond jubilarians.

For details and registration, alumni may get in touch with Purita/Fritzie (9326558); June Bobis-Principe (9226997); Lilian Niguidula (9512610); Delai Flores-Villafuerte (9269855) and Rodolfo Bagabaldo (8317145).

Visit www.uphigh57.bravehost.com or goldenuphigh-57@yahoogroups.com.

What parents can do

To mark the opening of school year 2007-2008, Lifestyle asked a few teachers from different schools what they wish parents would do during the school year to better help their kids learn. Moms and dads, pay attention to what the teachers have to say to you

"Have a personal interest in their children's school activities and lessons. It would be better if they don't give the teachers the sole responsibility of teaching their children.

Allot time to tutor their kids, which helps a lot. Manners and etiquette should already have been taught at home by the time kids are of school age.

Have realistic expectations of their children's intellectual abilities. They should not put too much pressure on them, but just give the right amount and kind of motivation."

–Shirley Esperanza
Fourth-grade teacher
Benigno Aldana Elementary School

"Prepare the child after they have carefully chosen an appropriate school.

Just 'drop off' the child on the first day of school, so as to convey their confidence about the school to the child.

Pick up the child on time, especially in the first few weeks, so the child does not become anxious when others are leaving while he or she is left behind.

Visit the school, preferably when classes are going on, to get a feel of what the school is like.

Do not connect home discipline matters with school, i.e., 'I will tell Teacher you did not eat your veggies.' You want the child to see the school in a positive light, so never associate negative ideas with school.

Allow the child to do what he can do for himself and his environment. Don't let the child be dependent on you or the *yaya*. This will help him coordinate his movements, become independent, realize his capabilities and develop confidence. Parents should just make sure the environment is safe for the child.

Teach in the context of everyday living and not as formal lessons. For example: 'You have a nice pink dress today (or white shoes, etc.)' indirectly teaches colors."

–Charito de la Cruz
Directress
Kidschool Child Development Center

"Look over written exercises and results of the quizzes to determine for themselves where they should intervene when it comes to their child's learning.

Mentor their child at home to give the child greater confidence the following day in the classroom.

Actively participate in team-building activities to inspire their child to focus more on studies. Quality time to hone the child's fullest potential is a must. Trust, respect and love for the child should be felt at all times."

–Maria Violeta M. Tupas
Education Supervisor I
Division of City Schools, QC

"Be present at dinnertime as much as possible. This is the perfect time to get to know your children. Listen to their stories. Allow them to unwind after a stressful day in school.

Make sure the house is always clean and organized to promote a sense of relaxation when the children get home from school.

Give children the freedom to budget their time. Agree on one that is most logical. Be reasonably generous but firm.

Stop constantly checking on test results, homework and projects. While it is okay to learn of the child's progress in school, excessive poking around could make the child feel guarded instead.

Refrain from criticizing the teacher in front of your children. If you have anything against the teacher, talk to the teacher in private."

–Renato N. Carvajal,
Religions teacher
Ateneo de Manila High School
2003 Metrobank Outstanding Teacher

"Communicate more with teachers. Oftentimes, when tuition has been paid and school has started, most parents think that all they have to do from then on is to bring their children to school and pick them up afterward.

Be proactive and look at teachers as partners in educating their kids. Funny, parents only come to us at the last minute, when their kids are failing or about to fail, or when they are already summoned for a parent-teacher conference.

Stop lobbying for their children. I remember one incident when one student failed to make the grade as an honor student. The parents kept on requesting that I change the grade I gave. I didn't. This kind of action sends the wrong signal to children, or sets the wrong precedent.

Understand that grades are just grades. They don't determine success or failure in life. It's the lessons learned and right values that the child acquires that will eventually make or break the child as a person."

–Marie Datu-Mamawal
Professor, Communication Arts
University of Santo Tomas

"Be genuinely concerned for the welfare of their children. They have souls, too, and not only mouths to be fed!

Know and share the vision and mission of the school, or else their kids end up confused because there is no unity of vision between home and school.

Be good examples to their children: Sunday Mass attendance, service to others, punctuality, discipline, hard work, etc."

–Sr. Evangeline M. de Leon, FMA
Elementary and high-school teacher
Don Bosco School-Sta. Mesa

UP High Class '57 prepares for alumni homecoming

UP HIGH CLASS '57 RECENTLY launched its drive to gather as many classmates as possible to come together for a class reunion.

In a general meeting held at Francis de Borja's residence in Pateros, Ernie Marcelo, class president, called on all members of the class, regardless of whether they finished their high school in UP High or not, to join in this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

"Some of these classmates transferred to other schools for one reason or another, but they are still part of the class, so we call on them to be part of the Jubilee reunion. We are all eager to catch up on each other after 50 long years."

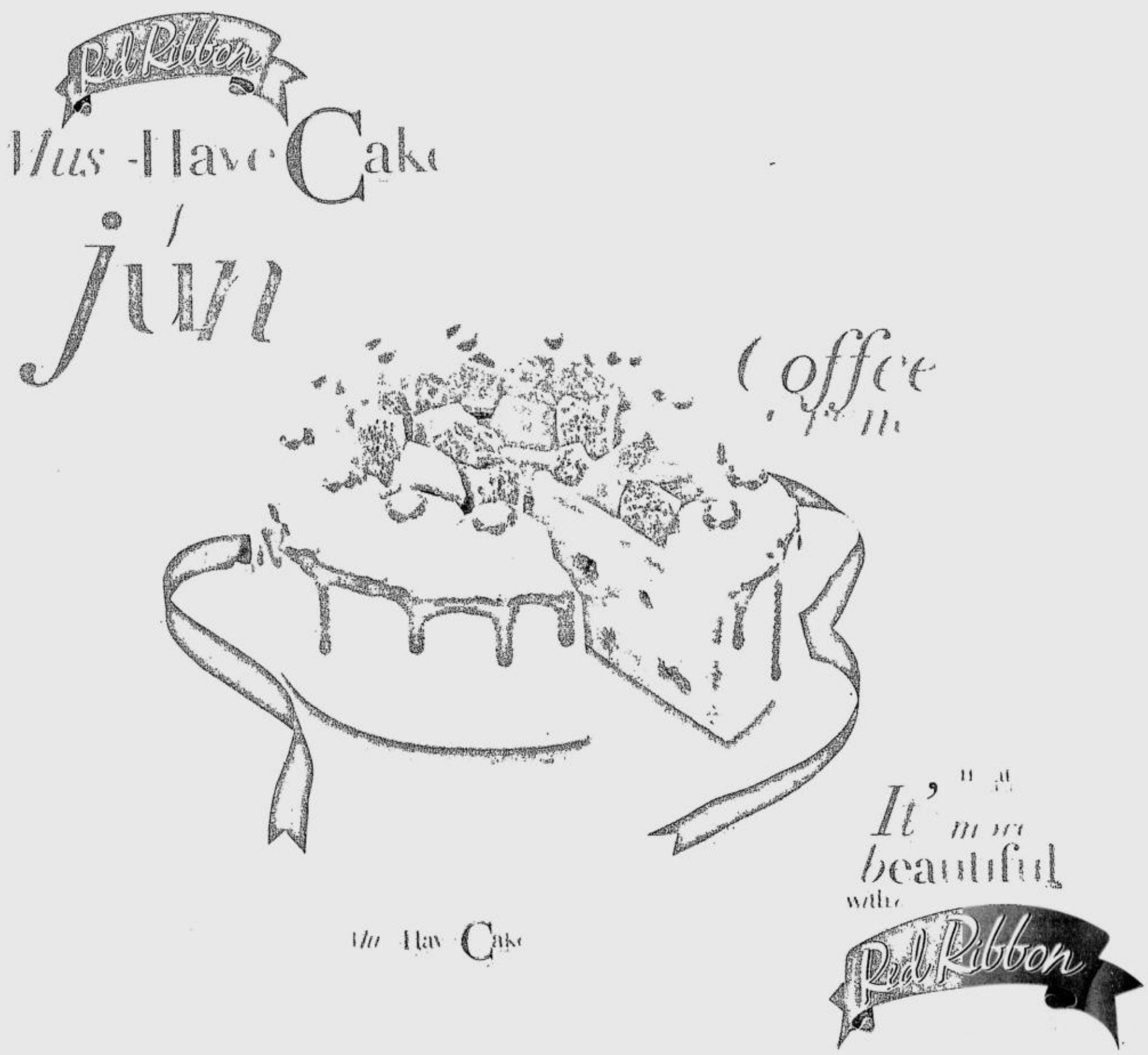
A steering committee composed of June Bobis-Principe, Lillian Niguidula-Salanguit, Purita O. Fajota, Cleo Dalao-Kornfeldit, Delai Flores-Villafuerte, Carmen S. Gatmaytan and De Borja, Nonoy Buncio, Joey Uranza, Sandy Borres, Rody Bagabaldo, Johnny Malig, Oscar Malabanan, Nazario Regino and Ernie Marcelo has been tasked to trace and contact all members of the class and to plan activities to maximize the stay of those based in the provinces or abroad who are coming to Manila for the event.

To ensure that overseas classmates are contacted and informed about the Golden Jubilee celebration, the class has tapped coordinators in the USA. Nabal Giron, based in Virginia, will handle classmates in the East Coast (kapitbahay57@yahoo.com); Mac del Fierro (maheromus@yahoo.com) and Alice Crispino-Alcantara (ali_alcan03@yahoo.com) will handle those based in the West Coast, while Frederick Acuna will coordinate with those based in Texas (fritzacuna@scom.net).

The committee envisions a week-long fun-filled celebration that will include a welcome dinner to be hosted by De Borja; overnight dinner and ballroom dancing at Sonia's Garden in Tagaytay; and a grand alumni homecoming at UPIS Grounds, Diliman, Quezon City.

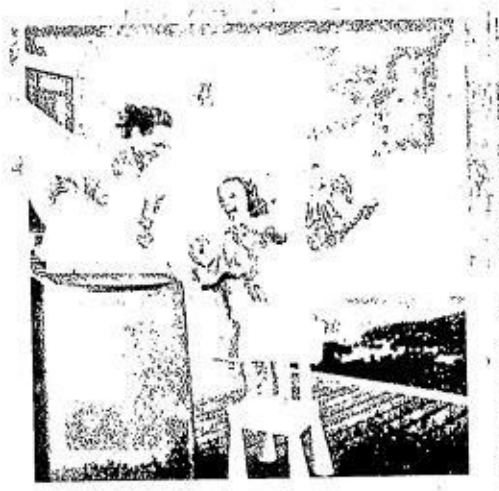
A special edition of the high-school newsletter The Clarion will be printed so that all members of the class will be kept

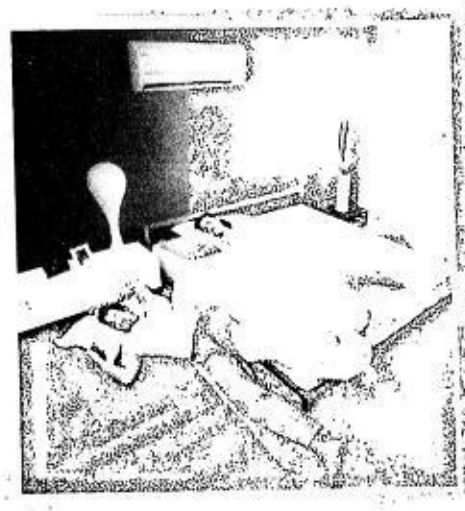
UP HIGH CLASS/ C3



Sunday LIFESTYLE at HOME

home appliances





Only a clean washer can truly clean clothes, only a clean air-conditioner can supply clean air and only a bacteria-free refrigerator can keep food fresh longer

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

THE FEEL-GOOD TREND OF the moment among consumers is to buy and use "green" home appliances. This has been true since global warming became a more realistic threat in the forms of tsunamis and hurricanes. In other words, people are shopping for air-conditioners that use less energy, washers that require lower water consumption, refrigerators that are manufactured with a less environmentally harmful coolant. . . you get the drift.

Now comes a forward-thinking, multi-awarded Korean company called Samsung and it has upped the ante with a challenge to its R&D geniuses: Can we produce electronic home appliances that will safeguard the health of their users as well as the earth's?

Despite increased consumer awareness, it just never occurs to most people to demand health-promoting household appliances. We buy refrigerators to keep our food near-fresh and supply us with cold drinks and ice cubes at all times. We install air-conditioners to cool our homes and keep our expensive leather shoes from cracking. We have washers to handle our piles of dirty laundry and free us to do other things. We just never look to buy home appliances that will protect our families from sickness, period.

As it happened, the people at Samsung were worried that home appliances were becoming breeding grounds for the very germs and odors they were supposed to eliminate for consumers.

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS/ D2

Do you have a handy-daddy?

IS YOUR DAD A DO-IT-YOURSELF kind of guy? Does leisure time mean tool time to him? Is he a sucker for home-improvement projects? Is he in his element when he has something to fix around the house?

When you go out shopping, does he head straight to the hardware store?

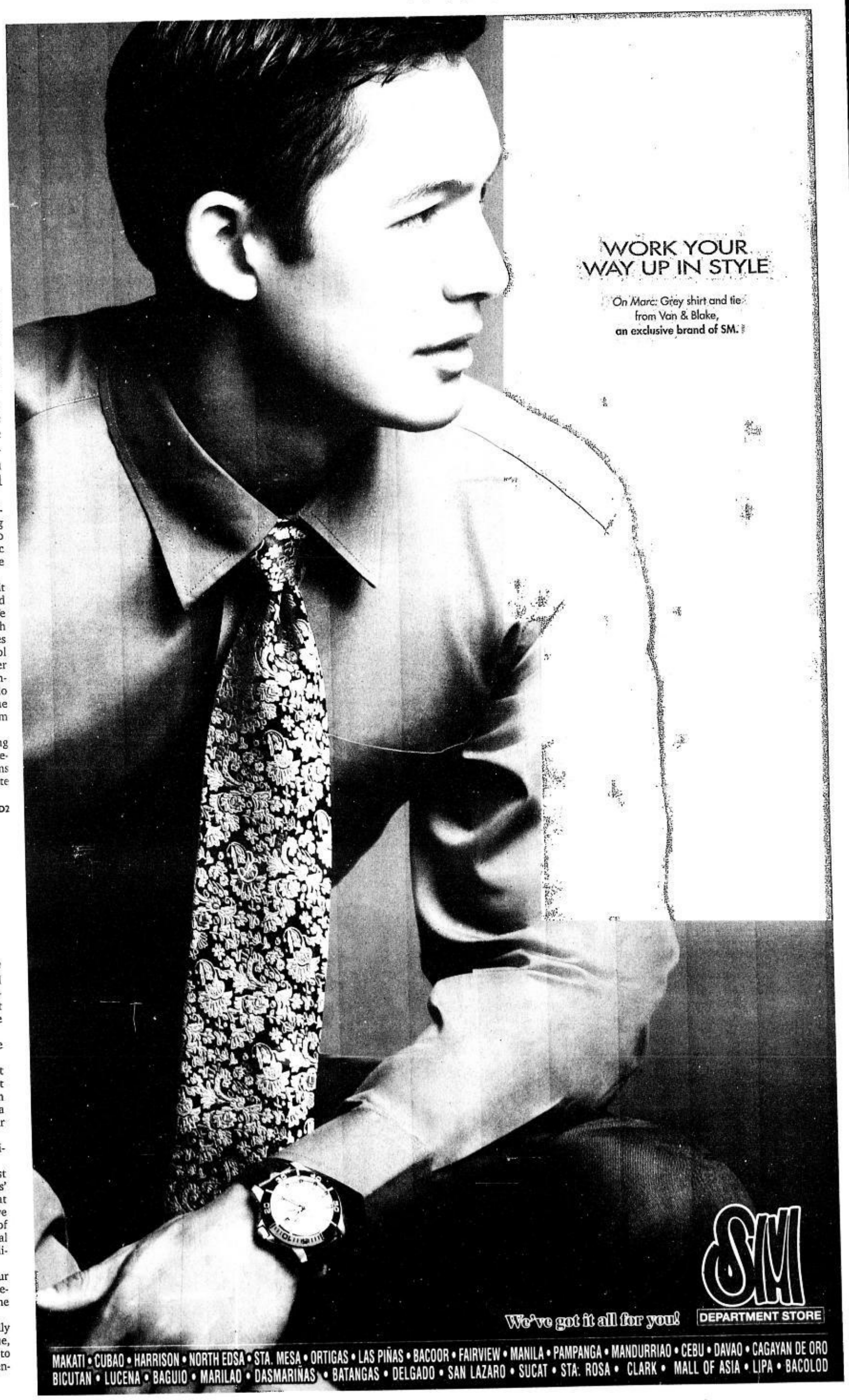
In 500 words or less, tell us about your handy-daddy and his latest or best DIY project. Send us a photo of him with his very own creation—a chair, a bookcase, a trellis, any furniture or home accessory that he made himself.

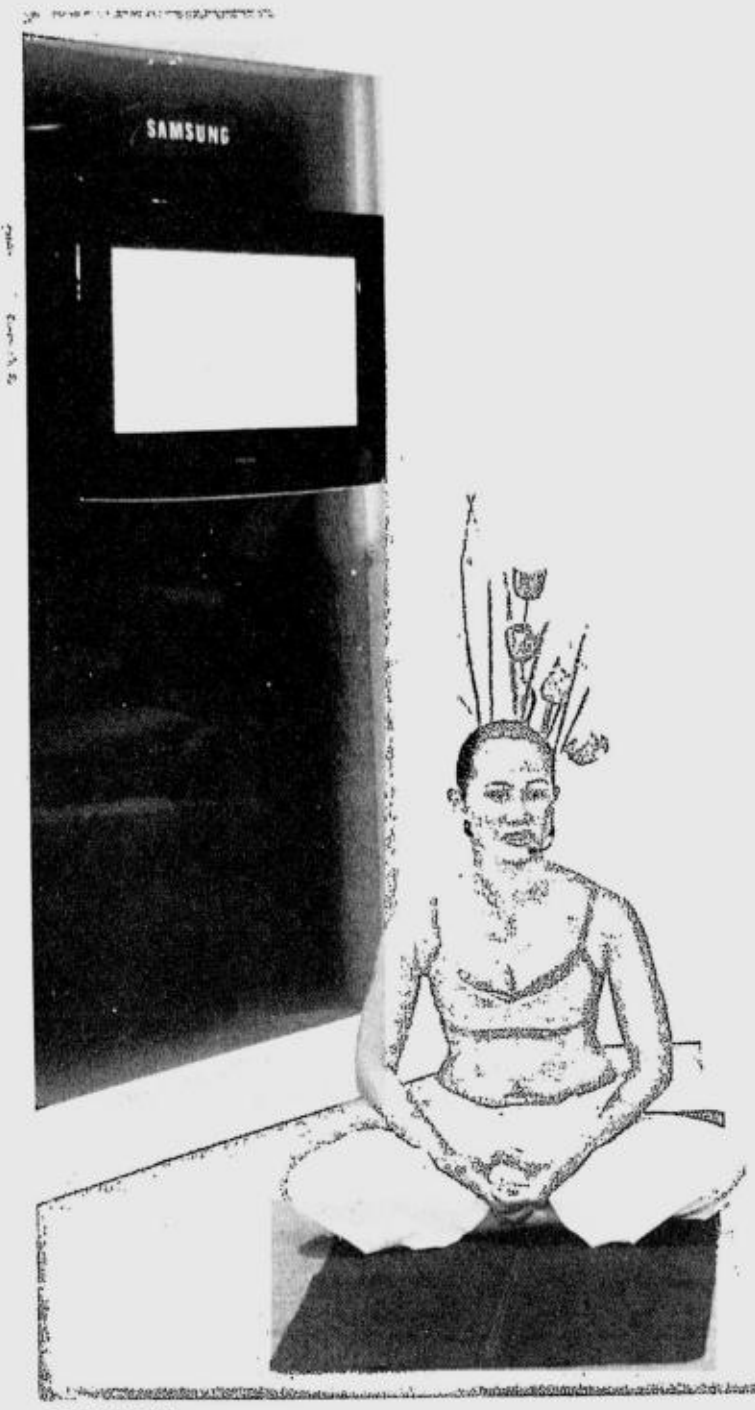
Entries with no photos will automatically be disqualified.

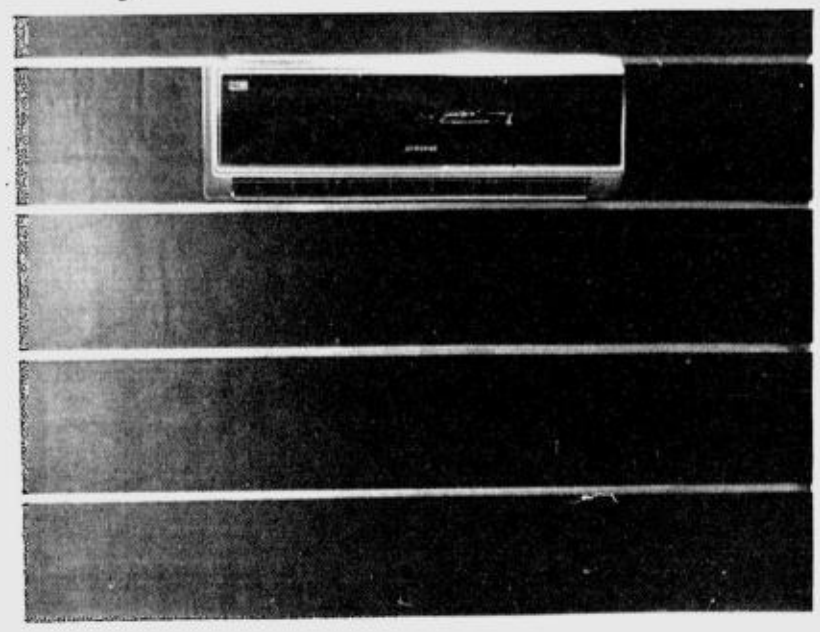
INQUIRER Lifestyle will pick the best four handy-daddies from our readers' entries and will take them shopping at Handyman where they each will receive P20,000 worth of purchases courtesy of Handyman, plus a Samsung S500 digital camera courtesy of Robinsons Appliances.

Include your name and age, your dad's name and age, your address, telephone number(s) and mobile phone number(s).

Submit your entry to Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati, attention Lifestyle. Or e-mail to dad@inquirer.com.ph. Deadline for entries is June 8.







Health-conscious home appliances

SAMSUNG'S Micro Plasma Ion in air-conditioners safeguards against SARS and flu viruses, as well as dust particles. RUDY ESPERAS

Is it too much to ask that, in saving the earth, makers of household machines also save consumers from all kinds of pollutants?

From page D1

Heigh-ho silver

"Our solution comes in the safety of silver," says Samsung's vice president for consumer electronics Dong Ha Jang at the opening of the 2007 Samsung Home Appliances Roadshow in the grand ballroom of Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The Silver Nano Health System developed by Samsung uses ionized silver as coating for home appliances. The use of silver to prevent and treat diseases and infections is nothing new, but nano technology today allows silver nano ions to sterilize over 650 types of bacteria. They can keep refrigerators, air-conditioners and washers remarkably free of bacteria and odors.

Now, there's a whole volume of literature about nano technology that just goes over the heads of average consumers like us so let's just say here that as a measurement "nano" is "75,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair." Any substance that is converted to such a size can penetrate areas that it otherwise cannot reach. Silver that is ionized through nano technology can thus enter cells of bacteria, mold, viruses and other microorganisms, and "suppress their respiration, which in turn inhibits cell growth."

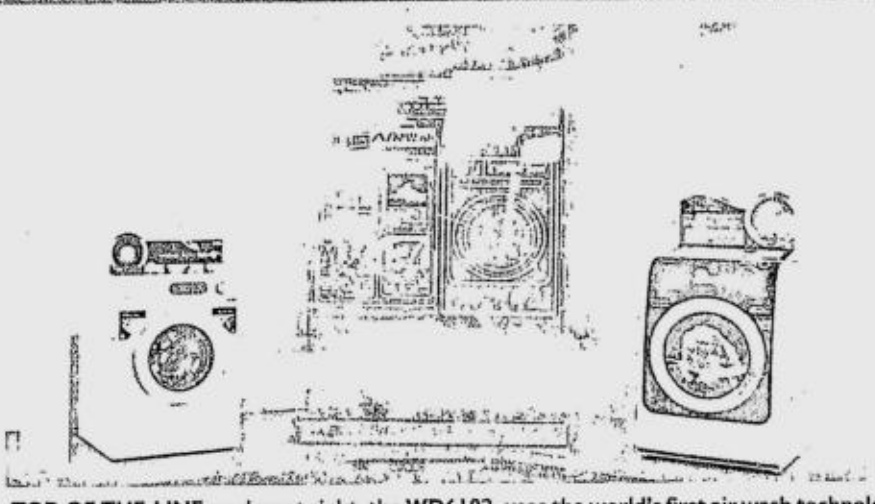
Silver for sanitation—imagine that! No wonder Samsung's theme for this year's roadshow is "Imagine purer living."

The more areas in the home that we can keep healthy and germ-free, the better, but for starters, Samsung is delivering the Silver Nano Health System—in style, they are quick to add—in its latest air-conditioners, refrigerators, washers, air-purifiers and vacuum cleaner. In the Philippine market, Samsung is selling only the refrigerator, washer and air-conditioners to date.

Clean air

Samsung's AS-24VBA air-conditioner is the product of its very own Micro Plasma Ion (MPI) technology, which eliminates harmful particles such as SARS-associated corona virus and influenza virus. Equipped with silver nano filter and evaporator, this AC also shields skin from harmful radicals, thereby keeping it healthy.

Here is a really nice feature since it benefits both the earth and its inhabitants: Samsung's new Good Sleep Mode maintains the temperature at an optimum level so you can breathe clean cool air and sleep comfortably. If you're usually awakened in the middle of the night because your room is freezing, this high-tech wonder is for you because you can program the temperature so it adjusts to a comfortable level as the night wears on, at the same time saving up to 30 percent energy compared with a normal cooler.



TOP-OF-THE-LINE washer at right, the WD6102, uses the world's first air wash technology that removes unpleasant smells, microscopic allergens and harmful bacteria.

Cool storage

Healthy eating advocates now have an ally in Samsung. The Silver Nano coating of the inner walls of Samsung's refrigerators inhibits the growth of bacteria and fungi, keeping food fresh and clean for a prolonged period of time and deodorizing the refrigerator.

Samsung has also found the solution for the dilemma in households where the need for food storage space depends on the comings and goings of holidays and seasons.

Its RM25KGRS refrigerator is equipped with the world's very first Quatro Cooling System. The left door of this side-by-side is the freezer, under which is a separate drawer. The right door is the refrigerator, also under which is a separate drawer. So all in all, this product has four individual compartments. Each compartment is cooled by its own motor and controlled independently. This design has resulted in a refrigerator with a flexible storage capacity.

If you have more food to freeze than chill, you can convert the two drawers into freezers, too. You can put the seafood in a separate compartment so the beef, pork and chicken will not smell *malansa*. On the other hand, if you have more food that requires chilling instead of freezing, you can use more compartments as ref sections. Again, you can divorce the desserts from the meat dishes so that flavors and spices do not mix.

Because you don't expose everything when you open one door, the humidity level is not affected in other compartments. A higher humidity level guarantees the freshness of food.

Well washer

Samsung's high-end washer, the WD6102 features the world's first Air Wash system that removes unpleasant smells, microscopic allergens and harmful bacteria by means of powerful hot air.

Take note that this machine does not use water. It decreases the frequency of washing or dry cleaning clothes and reduces wear-and-tear. Clothes come out looking refreshed. The air wash system is perfect for delicate fabrics.

Now for a washer that uses water, Samsung is coming out this month with one that is equipped with a mist shower function, saving water by up to 20 percent while its air turbo drying system enables faster drying. Another function in this top-loader reduces tangle.

What does the silver nano technology do in Samsung's washers? It eradicates 99.9 percent of germs. This is a very high percentage and quite a claim so Samsung must be standing on some pretty solid ground to have the courage to make it.

The folks at Samsung swear that the home appliances where the Silver Nano Health System is applied have gone through a series of strict testing at such international agencies as the British Allergy Foundation and the SLG Pruef-und Zertifizierungs GmbH in Germany. While the silver lining behind these high-tech appliances has been certified as effective in killing bacteria, it is also reportedly absolutely harmless to the human body.

Of course, Samsung's interest in pushing their health-conscious premium products is not entirely altruistic. The company is bent on becoming the market leader in the home appliance category. Already it is the top seller for side-by-side refrigerators in the Philippines and four other countries in Asia. It is No. 2 in the washing machine category. To expand its market share, Samsung has come out with mid-priced appliances that are likewise silver nano-protected.

The higher their sales, the more consumers there will be who will enjoy fresher food, cleaner clothes and more restful sleep. As they say in the corporate world, it is a win-win situation.

ROADSHOW resource persons from Samsung include Antonio Mauricio, national sales manager; Dong Ha Jang, VP consumer electronics; Amby Navarro, product manager; Jerry Lacson, marketing general manager; and Agustine Lim, regional product marketing director. RUDY ESPERAS

FOUR-COMPARTMENT RM25KGRS refrigerator (left) with the Quatro Cooling System is among Time Magazine's must-have gadgets in 2006. It also won Good Housekeeping's Good Buy award this year.

South by north

SM Cebu is working on expanding its existing mall with the opening this September of the Northwing

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHATEVER DOUBTS people had about Metro Cebu's ability to hold an international event were finally put to rest in February after it successfully hosted the Asean conference.

The high-profile development, in turn, further bolstered the confidence of SM, which is working on expanding its existing mall with the opening this September of the Northwing.

Officials of the country's biggest mall chain, led by Hans Sy, recently gave Cebuanos a sneak preview of what's in store for them with a fashion show and video presentation at SM City Cebu.

"This development is an affirmation of our confidence in Cebu," said Sy, president of SM Prime Holdings. "Apart from contributing to Cebu's development, it's our way of taking care of our tenants and customers."

Sy and his team began working on the project as early as December 2004. Actual construction started in the early part of 2006.

As opposed to SM City Cebu's bigger Southwing (162,000 sqm), the three-level Northwing has a land area of 108,000 sqm. Surprisingly, only 18,000 sqm will be leased out to tenants, while the rest will be used as public spaces.

HANS Sy, Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Marissa Fernan during the sneak preview

The parking area alone, which can accommodate close to 1,500 vehicles, measures close to 67,000 sqm. Giant hallways will be connecting the old, more mass-based Southwing to the more upscale Northwing.

An Australian firm will be designing the Northwing's common areas based on a theme inspired by "wellness." The look is thus decidedly subtle and cozy with plenty of wood and earth tones.

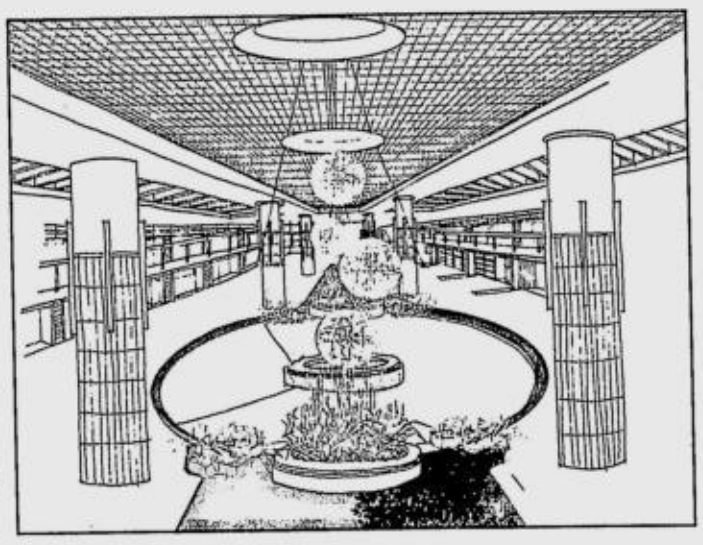
"In the same way that SM City Cebu defined the shopping experience, we hope the Northwing would elevate malling to a higher level," said Marissa Fernan, SM's VP-marketing communication group (Vis-Min).

SM City Cebu opened to the public in November 1993, making it the mall chain's first significant foray in the south.

But even before Sy and company conceived of the Northwing, SM has already had ample experience catering to the needs of Metro Manila's high-end market via such upscale establishments as The Podium and The Block (at SM City North Edsa).

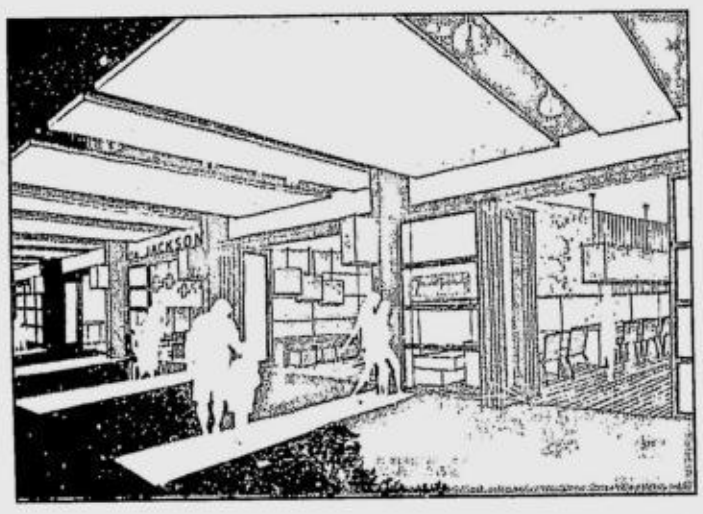
"We haven't made a final listing of tenants yet," said Fernan. "It will be a mix of new and old names, a number of which are homegrown. Some are poised to expand their presence in Cebu, while others are introducing new concepts."

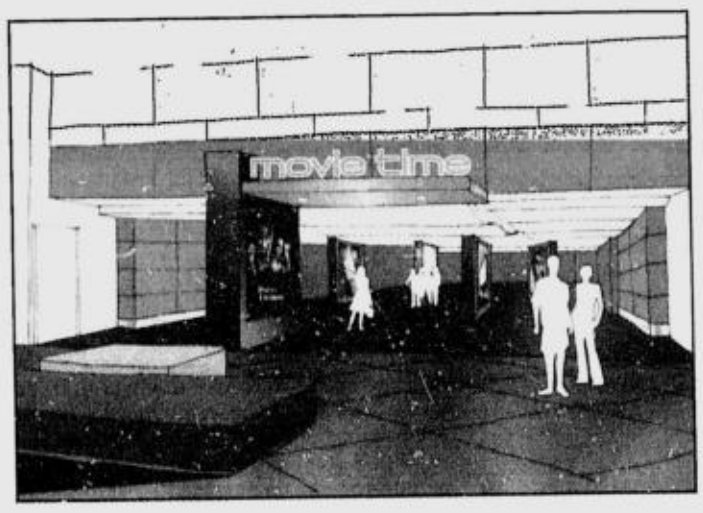
Cebu-based jeweler and socialite Amparito Lhuillier, for instance, is thinking of opening a high-end jewelry store in the new venue. A number of designers, led by the venerable Philip Rodriguez, are also considering following her lead.

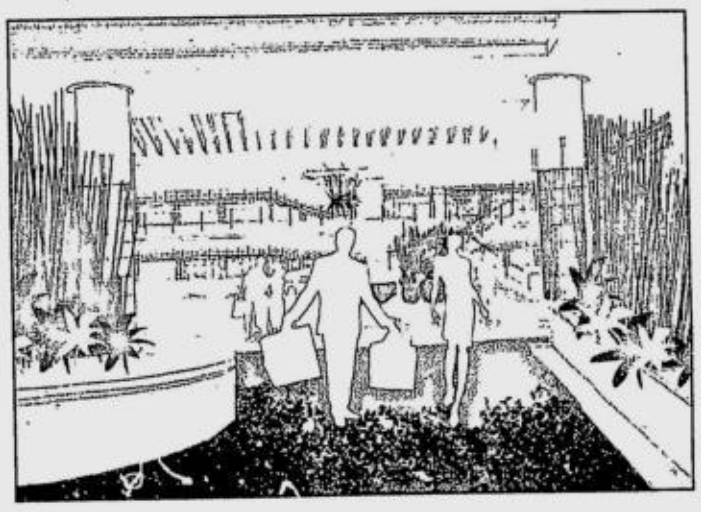


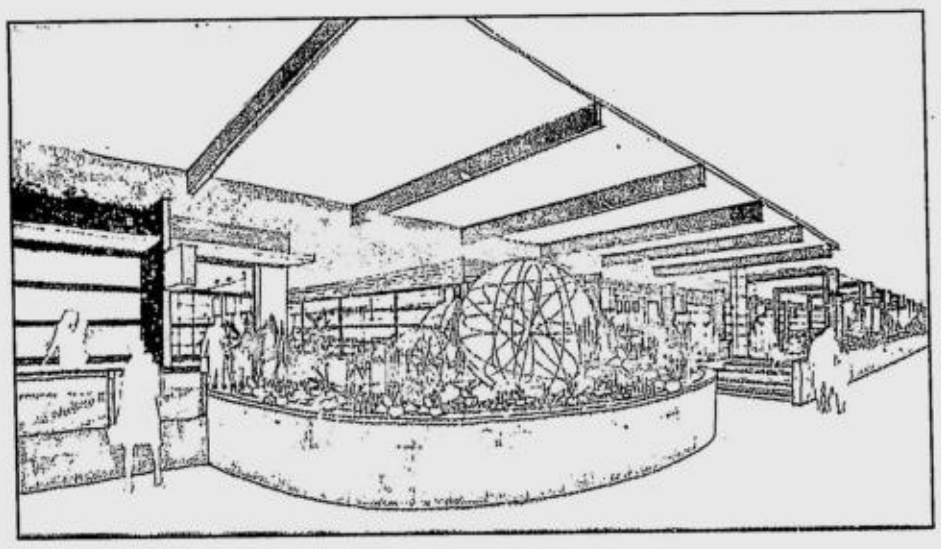
Meanwhile, Apple and Samsung Mobile are making the most out of Metro Cebu's booming economy by opening their respective stores at the Northwing. Apart from Cebu's thriving tourist and manufacturing industries, the province is home to the biggest call centers outside Metro Manila.

"We're also working on a coffee-table book on Cebu," said Fernan. "The book, which will feature aspects of Cebu life such as its heritage, fashion, food and design, is our gift to the people of Cebu. Hopefully, it will be finished in time for the Northwing's opening."









Plant arts seminar-workshops

A SERIES OF SEMINAR-WORKSHOPS on plant arts for profit and leisure will be conducted by Ikebana Professor Serapion S. Metilla June 8-23.

The schedule is: June 8-10, Bonsai Culture, the ancient art of dwarfing plants. It covers identification of materials, shaping, wiring, pruning, potting and repotting, and care and maintenance.

Materials, including pruning scissors, bonsai pot, potting medium, plant, aluminum wires, moss and strings, will be provided as well as snacks and handouts.

June 13-17, flower arrangements for all occasions. At least two projects will be done every day including Ikebana, Western styles, free styles, buffet centerpieces, garland, corsage and bridal bouquet, and other wedding arrangements.

All materials will be provided like pruning scissors, flower vases, floral foams, flowers, foliage and floral tapes, as well as snacks and handouts.

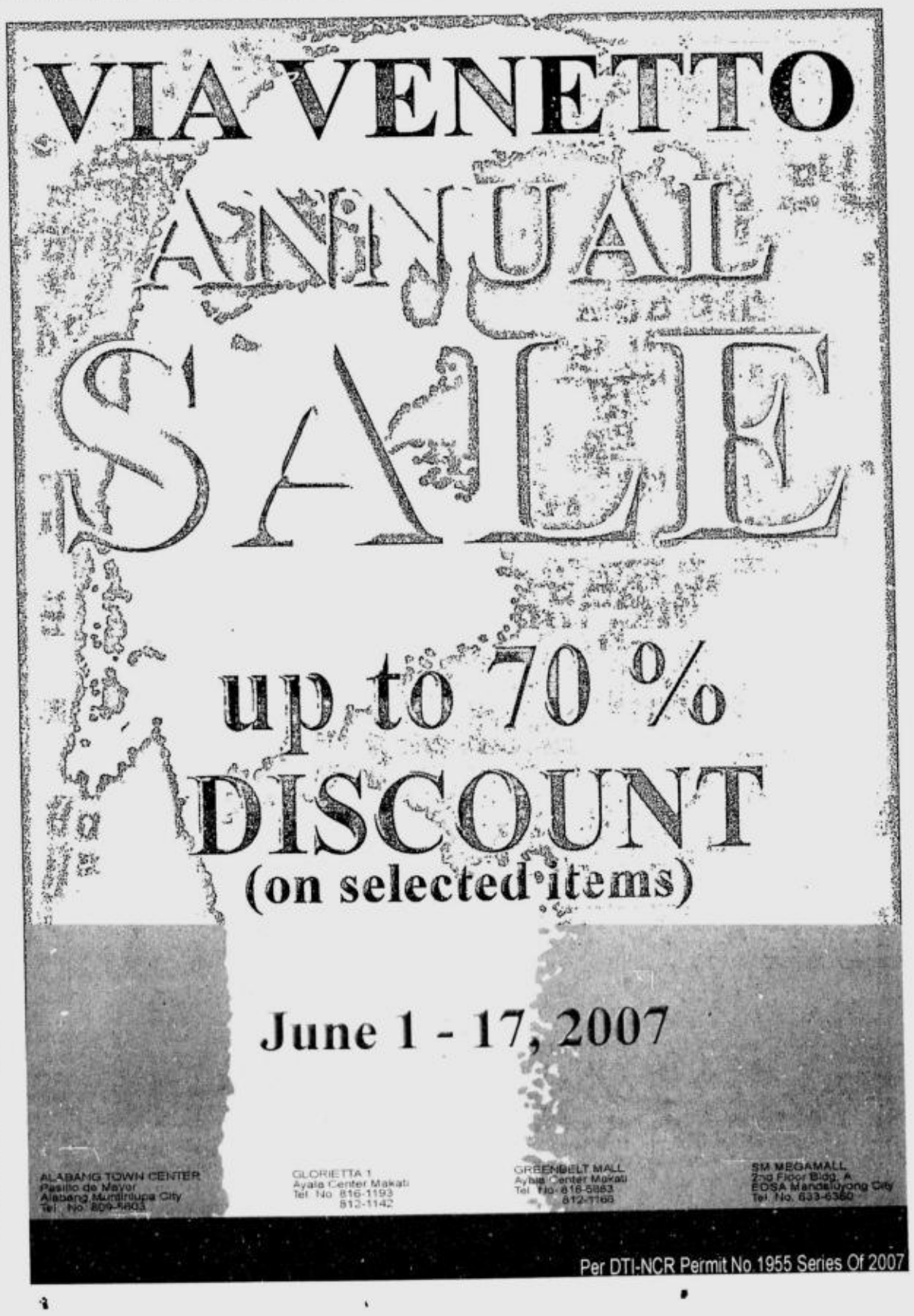
Fees should be paid at least three days before the start of the course.

June 23, tray landscaping and terrarium making. The course covers practical landscaping principles, sourcing of materials, techniques of indoor decorating with plants, and care and maintenance.

Two hands-on projects will be done like tray landscape and fishbowl terrarium. All materials needed will be provided.

A FRUIT and floral arrangement good for a buffet centerpiece

All workshops will be held 1-6 p.m. Participants who complete the courses will get certificates. Advance registration should be made at least one week before the start of classes. Call 9394594, 4352479 and 0917-4321352; e-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.ph



THE VASE-LIKE object to the right is a speaker that receives music from the remote held by the model. It also has lights that change in color and intensity depending on the kind of music being played.

People do not want technology they cannot use. Consumers have become more realistic and practical

Sense and simplicity

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

TECHNOLOGY IS SUPPOSED TO make life easier.

But in the rarefied atmosphere of research and development offices and laboratories, scientists and industrial designers tend to forget that many prospective users of the products they are developing barely got through their mathematics courses and hardly remember what physics is all about.

It is not so much that the products fail to do what they are supposed to. Rather, it is the fact that operating the latest thingamajigs meant to make household chores less arduous requires a brain like Albert Einstein's. Many people have learned to dread replacing broken appliances with the latest models because that would mean starting a new learning curve.

In the end, they do not even bother to discover all the various uses their state-of-the-art gadgets are capable of, limiting themselves to the most basic and needed functions.

This fact was not lost on the management of the Netherlands' Royal Philips corporation, a leader in lighting technology that is strengthening its position as a major player in the home appliance and medical equipment fields.

As Andrea Ragnetti, chief marketing officer, noted: "Technology was originally meant to improve people's lives but now it had become so complicated."

Getting back to earth

Realizing that people are beginning to resist new innovations, the Dutch company has, for the past few years, worked around the theme of simplicity, pulling its scientists and designers from stratospheric heights back to earth to design for ordinary consumers who only want something simple but functional that they can learn to use without having to take a crash course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

RUDY Provoost, Consumer Electronics CEO, and Stefano Marzano, design CEO, outline the features of new Philips products.

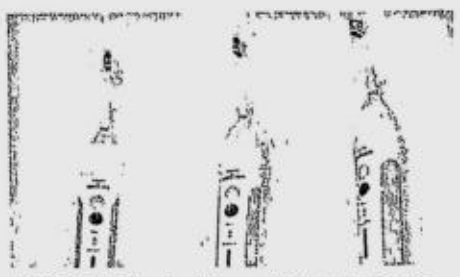
During its latest Simplicity event for media people in Hong Kong, Philips showcased products it expected to put in the market within the year and what were on the drawing boards.

The technology is still awesome—lights that change colors to create the desired mood; a single stereo unit allowing different people in a household or office to listen simultaneously to various musical genres in the privacy of their own rooms; a virtual magic wand that stores hundreds of discs and works with a vase-like speaker that expands and shrinks and lights up depending on the music played; television that adjusts to the quality of the signal it is getting, reading details of video feeds and enhancing them; weighing scales that also tell fat and hydration rates; mirrors that provide basic fitness information; lights that can provide office- or house-bound people with a much-needed boost of energy from the sun's rays, etc.

Yet everything is made to work with the touch of a button, the turn of a knob or simply by pressing a colored sheet to a sensor.

Rudy Provoost, consumer electronics chief executive officer, said Philips' new designs did not just enlist the usual technical and science people. The company also roped in "psychologists (and other social scientists) whose input was as valuable, if not more valuable." Philips designed around consumers, he added.

Stefano Marzano, an architect who is design CEO, said the design team "created based on an understanding of people—their social, financial, cultural backgrounds." While designs focused on commonalities, they were also adapted to the unique requirements of specific markets—for example, making a rice cooker more interesting for non-rice eating consumers like Europeans.



DESIGNED by dental specialists, the Sonic toothbrush can move 31,000 times per minute. It has a built-in timer so people get the minimum two-minute brushing.

Ragnetti said light bulbs were developed to "adopt to the fluctuating power supply in (many parts of Asia)."

Also, considering the difficulty of providing clean and safe water in many parts of the world, Philips has developed the technology to use light as water purifier.

Knowing the user

Philips designers, Marzano said, took note of diversities and appreciated cultural differences to develop products that were "relevant and meaningful." In developing concepts, the design team started by defining personas or the people they wanted to use their products.

The Sonic toothbrush, for instance, which has become a bestseller, was designed by dental specialists to make sure people completed at least the minimum two-minute brushing time that experts said good dental hygiene required.

David Hughes, director of marketing and sales for oral health care in the Asia-Pacific, said one of the challenges that had to be addressed was ensuring compliance with the minimum brushing time. Designers responded with a built-in two-minute timer in the toothbrush. The timer provides for 30-second breaks after each quadrant of the mouth has been cleaned.

The portable Philips HeartStart, a defibrillator that can deliver life-saving shock to a cardiac arrest victim before medical people arrive, can be operated by any person with a minimum of training. This enables the shock to be delivered within the critical five minutes after cardiac arrest.

Of course, at a time when people are increasingly conscious about the need to protect the environment, sustainability is a buzzword at the Philips design offices. Provoost said designs took into account each country's eco-environment and were meant to help improve the situation, not aggravate existing problems.

A SAFE alternative to candles is this light that is currently available only in Europe.

Ragnetti said: "Originally companies will just throw technology to the market (and expect consumers to accept it). But now people do not want technology they cannot use. Consumers are more realistic and practical."

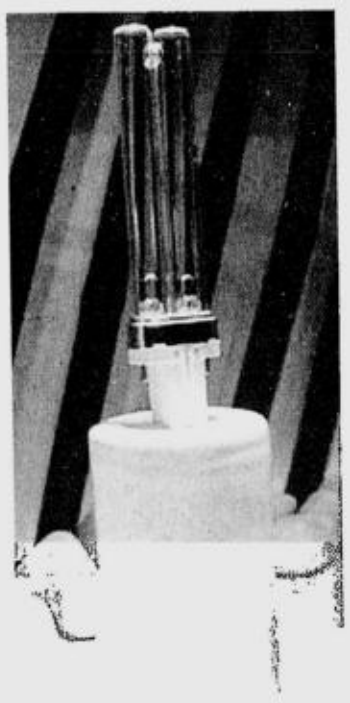
Wayne Spittle, vice president and general manager for medical systems, MCR Asia-Pacific, said Philips wanted to make technology that was easier to use. As exemplified by the HeartStart, it sought "to turn a complex situation into a simple exercise."

THE STREAMIUM wireless music system lets everybody in a home enjoy different kinds of music simultaneously.

STREAMIUM receivers draw different kinds of music from the main unit, which can store as many as 1,500 compact discs.

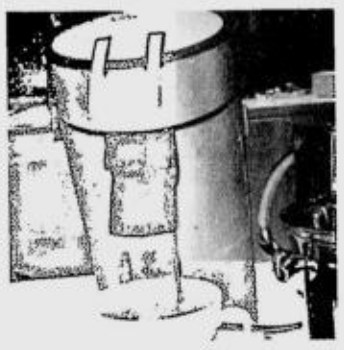
WITH a machine telling him how much workout he needs or when he should rest, a person can have the right fitness regimen at home.

THIS new-generation weighing scale not only gives a person's avoirdupois, but also fat and hydration percentages.



UDAY, a rechargeable portable lantern under Philips SMILE (Sustainable Model in Lighting Everywhere), is distributed only in India at the moment.

THE 6-LITER PerfectDraft can keep beer fresh for four weeks.



SENSEO Coffee Maker's revolutionary method brews up to two cups of coffee in less than a minute using coffee pads.

Why disinfect and sanitize?

HOW WELL ARE YOU guarding "germ transfer" stations? So-called "natural" cleaners like lemon juice, baking soda and vinegar may be giving you a false sense of security, but they are not effective against harmful bacteria or viruses.

Clean surfaces easily and confidently using handy Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. They can reduce bacteria levels in an easy, one-step wipe, killing 99.9 percent of germs.

Another product worth trying is the sanitizer Clorox Anywhere Hard Surface Spray. It goes through a patented process that results in a daily sanitizing spray that kills 99.9-percent of bacteria, can be used on many hard surfaces including tables, strollers, refrigerators and stainless steel, and yet is gentle as water, with no harsh fumes, so you can use it around kids, pets and food.

With so many diluted, low-priced but not-so-effective products out there, you have to be smart and make sure that what you're using is a proper disinfectant because a household surface may look clean but that's no guarantee that there are no more germs there.

A study conducted by the University of Arizona's Charles P. Gerba, Ph.D., and team found that "anti-bacterial" household cleaning products like certain dish detergents and hand soaps cannot actually disinfect surfaces.

These are the shocking figures they released: 300 germs per sq cm on kitchen countertops, 10,000 per sq cm on bathroom faucets, and 100 million per sq cm on sponges and dishcloths.

To break the cycle of transmission, take aim at the hotspots with a disinfectant. If the surface is not disinfected, germs can spread around the house the next time the infected surface is touched.

Clorox Disinfecting Wipes and Clorox Anywhere Hard Surface Spray are available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

24/7 exclusive handyman service

CITIBANK'S PREMIUM Concierge Service offers Gold Visa and MasterCard, and Platinum VISA cardholders exclusive round-the-clock access to handyman services.

Citibank Gold or Platinum cardholder only have to call the Premium Concierge Service to deal with domestic problems like plumbing and electrical crises.

"Think of it as having your very own personal assistant," said Bea Teh-Tan, Citibank's cards business director. "Citibank Premium Concierge Service can take care of arranging for your handyman needs—24 hours of the day, seven days a week."

Exclusively offered to Citibank Gold Visa, Gold MasterCard and Platinum Visa cardholders, the Premium Concierge Service is absolutely free of charge and easily accessible via the hotline number 6879000.

Call anytime and Citibank's friendly customer service executives are always ready to accommodate your request.

Handyman assistance is available only in the Philippines.

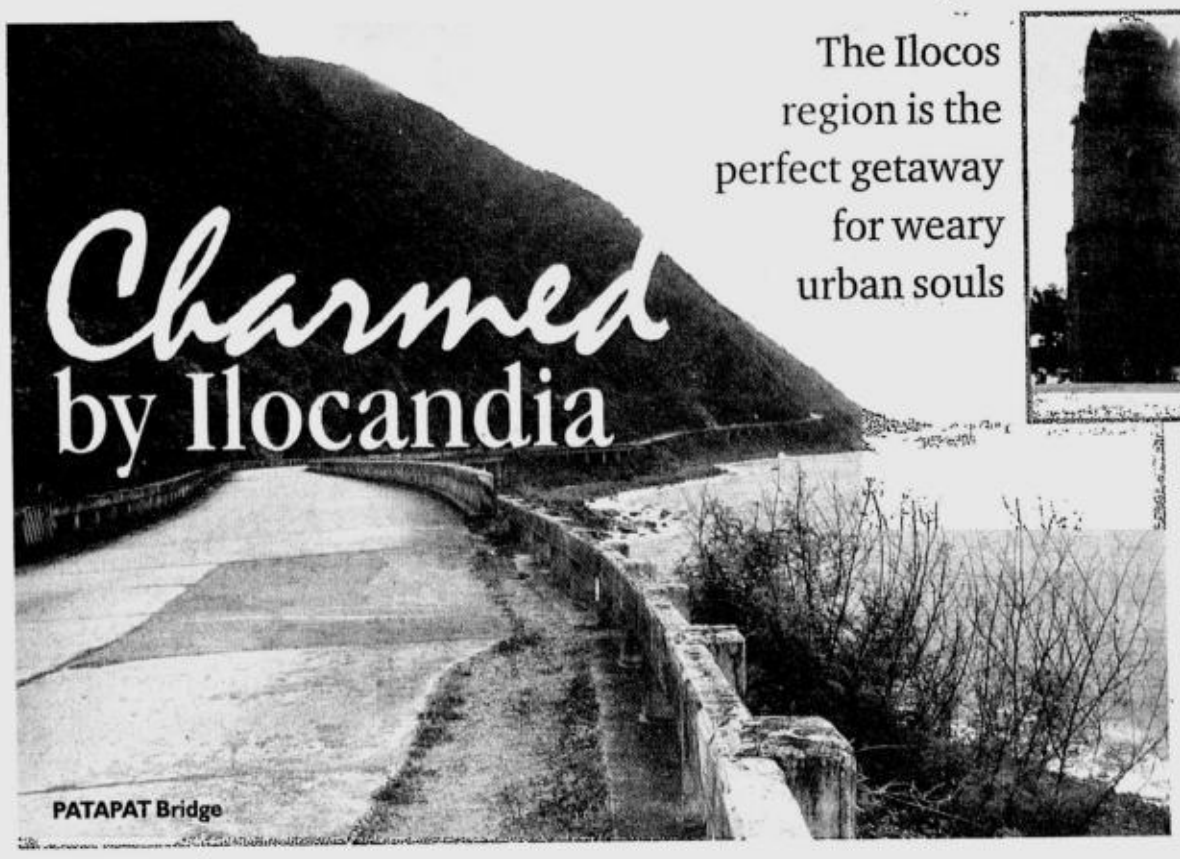
Citibank Platinum and Gold cardholders can also enjoy 24/7 assistance for other concierge services such as referral and reservation services for hotels; restaurants, salons, car rentals; and other establishments and service providers; delivery and messengerial service for flower and gift deliveries, courier service and messengerial service needs; and emergency hotline services to get easy access to emergency numbers for police and fire departments, medical institutions, towing services and government offices.

"Owning a Citibank Gold and Platinum credit card is a privilege, and we want our cardholders to have more and more reasons to carry this privilege wherever they go. The Premium Concierge Service transforms our credit card from a payment tool into a fantastic piece of plastic that can service your other lifestyle needs," added Tan.

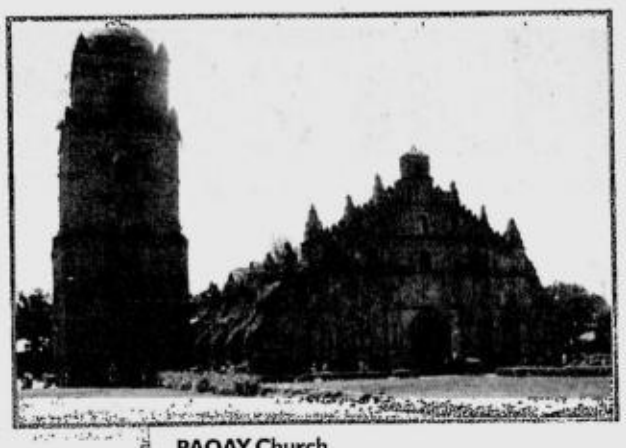
With Citibank's Premium Concierge Service you definitely get the ultimate in personalized concierge services just by being a Citibank Gold or Platinum cardholder. Call 6879000 or visit www.citibank. com.ph.

Charmed by Ilocandia

The Ilocos region is the perfect getaway for weary urban souls



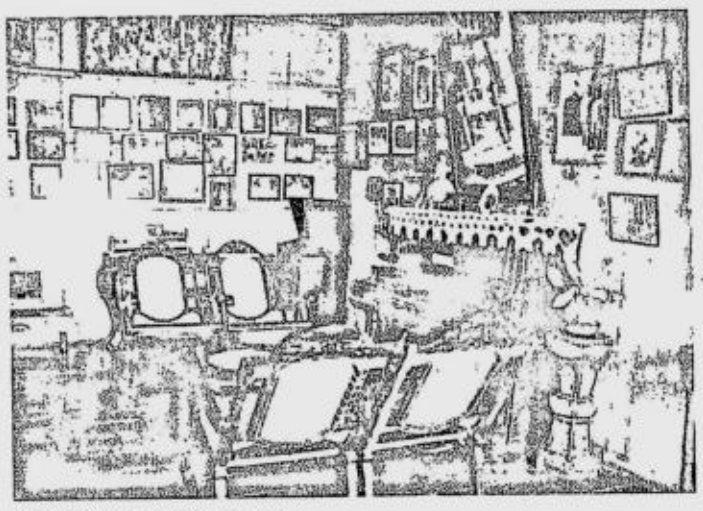
PATAPAT Bridge



PAOAY Church

STA. MONICA Church belfry in Sarrat

POTTERY-MAKING in Vigan



INSIDE the Crisologo house

From page D6

mark never fails to catch the attention of tourists.

The remarkably clean Laoag public market is also nearby. Pedestrian lanes are visible enough for us not to miss it. The famous *empanada* is everywhere. There's also the St. William Cathedral where we hear Mass—in Ilokano! It is our first time to hear Mass in a different dialect, and the only time we get to sing along is when "Kordero ng Diyos" is sung. We also notice that during offertory, churchgoers buy lighted vigil candles inside the church and offer these at the altar.

Our second day in Ilocos Norte brings us to the Malacañang of the North in Paoay. There isn't much to see inside except the spacious rooms of the late President Marcos, his first lady and their children except for Bongbong who, the guide says, often stayed in his beach house. The mansion overlooks the tranquil Paoay Lake and golf course.

Paoay Church, a Unesco Heritage Site, with its magnificent façade and belfry, is also a sight to behold.

The Marcos house and museum in Batac, where photos and memorabilia of the late president are displayed, draw crowds everyday. The late president's preserved body can be viewed here, but no cameras are allowed inside the mausoleum, to the dismay of many curious visitors.

In Sarrat, where the late president was born, can be found the equally majestic Sta. Monica Church and ruins. It has become more popularly known as the church where Irene Marcos and Greggy Araneta exchanged vows.

Just as with the Paoay Church, the Sta. Monica Church belfry is separated from the church. Our guide says this was to prevent the tower from toppling into and damaging the church in the event of an earthquake.

The Sand Dunes of Ilocos is also a popular tourist site. The desert setting became a favorite location of the "Panday" movies of FPJ and its recent remake on television.

MALACAÑANG of the North

ILOCOS *bagnet* with KBL (*kamatis, bagoong, lasona*)

PASUQUIN'S *biscocho*

Historic village

After touring the north, we proceed to Ilocos Sur and explore the famous city of Vigan. First stop is the *pagburnayan* or pottery-making factory where countless jars in different shapes and sizes are made. We also drop by the ancestral house of the Crisologos, a known political clan in Vigan, before we take our *kalesa* ride to the historic Vigan Heritage Village.

Tourists ride the *kalesa*, the only means of transportation allowed inside the heritage village, to view the centuries-old houses of the city.

Souvenir items and *pasalubong* also abound in the village. A side trip to the sprawling Baluarte of Gov. Chavit Singson is a welcome treat to animal lovers as the place teems with tigers, deer, horses, ostriches and many more.

Ilocos is also famous for its cuisine. Aside from the famous *empanada* and *longganisa* (by the way, we prefer the Laoag *longganisa* over the Vigan variety), there's also the *pasalubong* staples of *chichacorn* and Pasuquin *biscocho*.

We have fond memories of the Ilokano *pinakbet* in Pagudpud, so when we dine at the homey La Preciosa Restaurant in Laoag, we are curious to try out other Ilokano dishes. We are amused by the interesting sound of the dishes on the menu, such as *poqui-poqui* and *warek-warek* but in the end, we settle for the famous and easy-to-pronounce *bagnet*.

Ilocos is really sun, sea, sand and a lot more. It is the perfect getaway for weary urban souls.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Banaue by bus

Victory Liner invites its clients to rediscover the Banaue Rice Terraces. Tourists can take the air-conditioned bus at the Victory Liner Kamias Terminal, Edsa corner East Avenue, Kamias, Quezon City. The bus, which leaves 10:45 p.m. daily, will take them all the way to Banaue Hotel. Return bus leaves Banaue at 5 p.m. Fare is P400 one way (tel. 9213296).

Sweet deals

Singapore Airlines offers special discounted round-trip airfares until July 31: $160, Singapore; $260-$460 to popular destinations like Kuala Lumpur or Penang, Bangkok or Brunei, Jakarta or Saigon, Sydney or Perth. Prices are exclusive of taxes and surcharges. Log on to singaporeair.com.

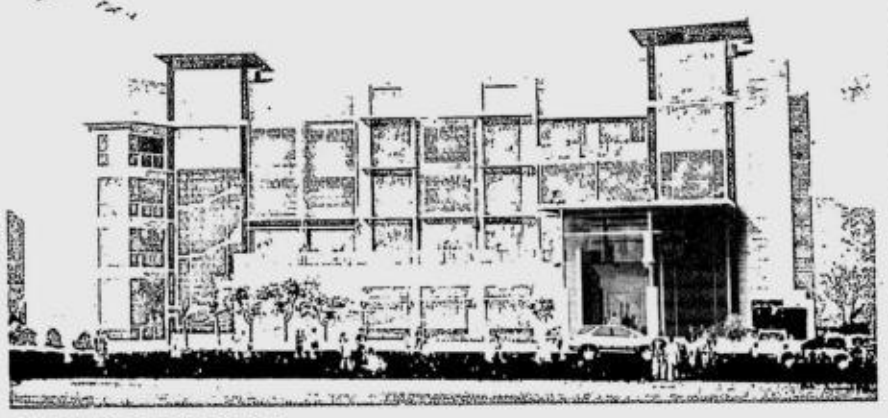
Diving services

Johnny's Dive 'N' Fun, the premiere dive shop and adventure tour operator in Camiguin, has opened a new shop on Camotes Island, Cebu. It offers various diving packages and courses for both seasoned enthusiasts and curious first-timers. Reasonable package rates range P1,250 per dive to P3,250 for three boat dives on the same day. Camotes Island offers breathtaking and crowd-free dive sites. Johnny's Dive is at Sitio Tulang, Esperanza, San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu, +63-920-9536680; www.johnnysdive.com.

8.7M HK tourists

Total visitor arrivals to Hong Kong exceeded 2.17 million in April, a year-on-year increase of 2.3 percent, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) announced. The increase took the cumulative total for January-April to more than 8.79 million, 5.3 percent higher than in the first four months of 2006. In April, some 1.28 million arrivals (59 percent of the total) stayed in the city for at least a night.

REDISCOVER the Banaue Rice Terraces



NEW HOTEL IN NAGA
G7 Holdings Corp. will open in July Avenue Plaza Hotel on Magsaysay Avenue in Naga City. Jonathan O. Gan and Associates designed the hotel, which is expected to become a hub of activity in Naga City.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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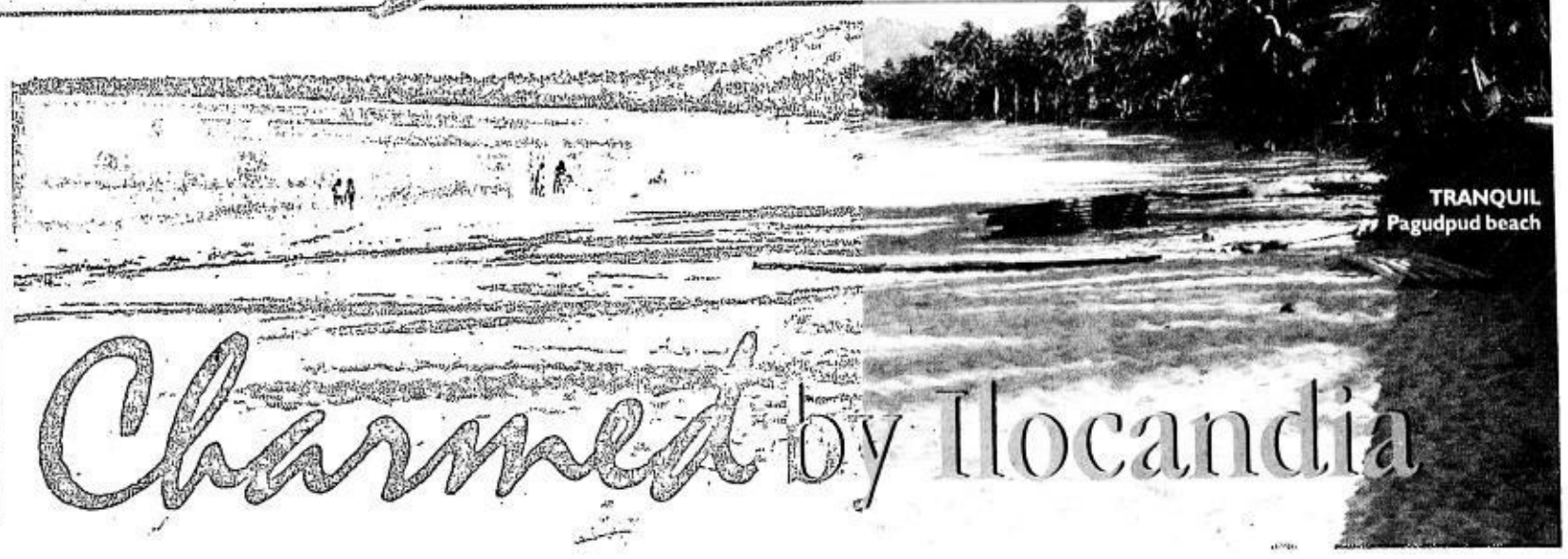


TRANQUIL
Pagudpud beach

Charmed by Ilocandia

Text and photos by Sharon Robas-Macawile

WE'VE HEARD AND READ so much about Ilocos—its sights, beaches and food.

So when the opportunity for us to visit the place comes, my hubby and I pack our bags and prepare ourselves for the Ilocandia experience.

We've always wanted to go to Ilocos not only to enjoy the beach but to learn something about the rich historical and cultural stuff the region is known for.

After a long and winding night trip, we wake up in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. Dubbed the "Boracay of the North," Pagudpud beaches boast white sand and clear waters. They're also less crowded than their Visayas counterpart.

The excitement grows the moment our feet touch the cool waters. We are warned that the waters can go deep. Why? Because the sand is very soft and the waves can literally wash you away.

The Bangui wind farm can be seen visibly from the beach and provides a perfect backdrop to the pristine waters, which are best not only for swimming but for boating and kayaking as well.

We then head to the Patapat Bridge and have our photos taken, just like what most tourists do, with its picturesque landscape. We also make a quick stop at the Bangui view deck for a better view of the "giant electric fans" of the wind farm.

A first in Southeast Asia, the 15 turbines supply power to Ilocos Norte.

The century-old Cape Bojeador lighthouse in Burgos, which still works up to this day, is also a must-see. The magnificent view at the top is simply breathtaking.

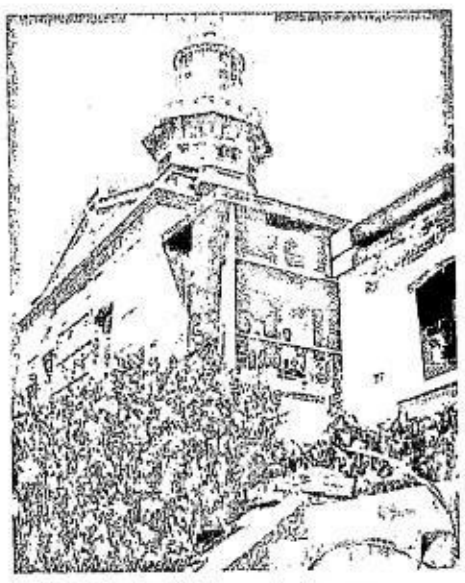
We exit Pagudpud and its neighboring towns while mesmerized by the beauty of nature surrounding the place—the lush mountains and trees, the seas, and the countless cows that seem to find solace in their bucolic setting.

Bright and clear

The capital city of Laoag impresses us with its cleanliness and its *maaliwalas* feel. Well, it's no surprise since Laoag means bright and clear! It's also often referred to as the "sunshine city of the North."

We are lucky to stay near the heart of the city, and what better way to explore the place than by taking a walk. A stone's throw away from the Ilocos Norte Capitol is the famous Sinking Bell Tower of Laoag. Although sandwiched within the commercial area, this land-

CHARMED/ D5



CAPE Bojeador lighthouse in Burgos

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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BIRTHDAY celebrant Chito Madrigal

Chito Madrigal Collantes has reached that enviable point when she can spend quality time with her relatives and friends while keeping the Madrigal legacy alive

A special kind of matriarch

By Mary de Leon Rufino
Contributor

TO CELEBRATE HER 86th birthday, Chito Madrigal Collantes wanted to have a gathering of her family, just a little bit bigger than what she usually hosted every Sunday lunch.

But it isn't everyday that family, friends and business partners have the opportunity to show their appreciation for a woman of her stature, especially one who is at the enviable point in her life when she can choose to spend quality time with the family members and friends that she enjoys.

So kith, kin and kindred souls planned a big party around Chito anyway, with Bing de Guzman of ING taking the initiative to provide the catering and entertainment.

Alex Madrigal Eduque meticulously organized a video presentation that featured messages from all the family members, with a particularly poignant declaration from Chito's loving husband, Manuel Collantes.

Alex's mother Chuchu, Jamby, Tana, Ging and I helped with the invitations, and attended to the guest during the event.

Our good friend Boysie Villavicencio decorated the venue, covering the tent in Tita Chito's lawn with flowers and Persian carpets.

Thanks to Bing, Margarita Fores made sure that the feast would dazzle the guests.

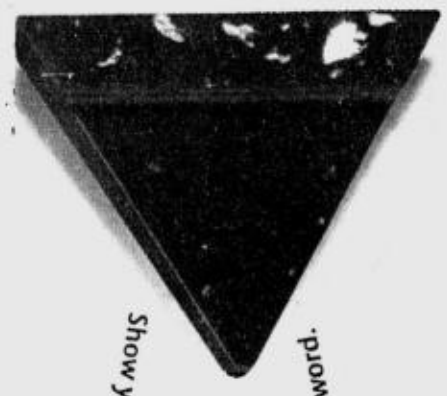
Master of ceremonies Alex Eduque kicked off the evening's program with her video presentation, which brought the celebrator to tears.

Mandy and Chuchu asked their friend, internationally acclaimed ballroom dancer Edna Ledesma, and a partner to do the Tango Argentina.

Maite Gallego of ING sponsored a performance by Stephanie Reese, international soprano and star of "Miss

A SPECIAL/ E2

DELIGHTFUL FAMILY TIES



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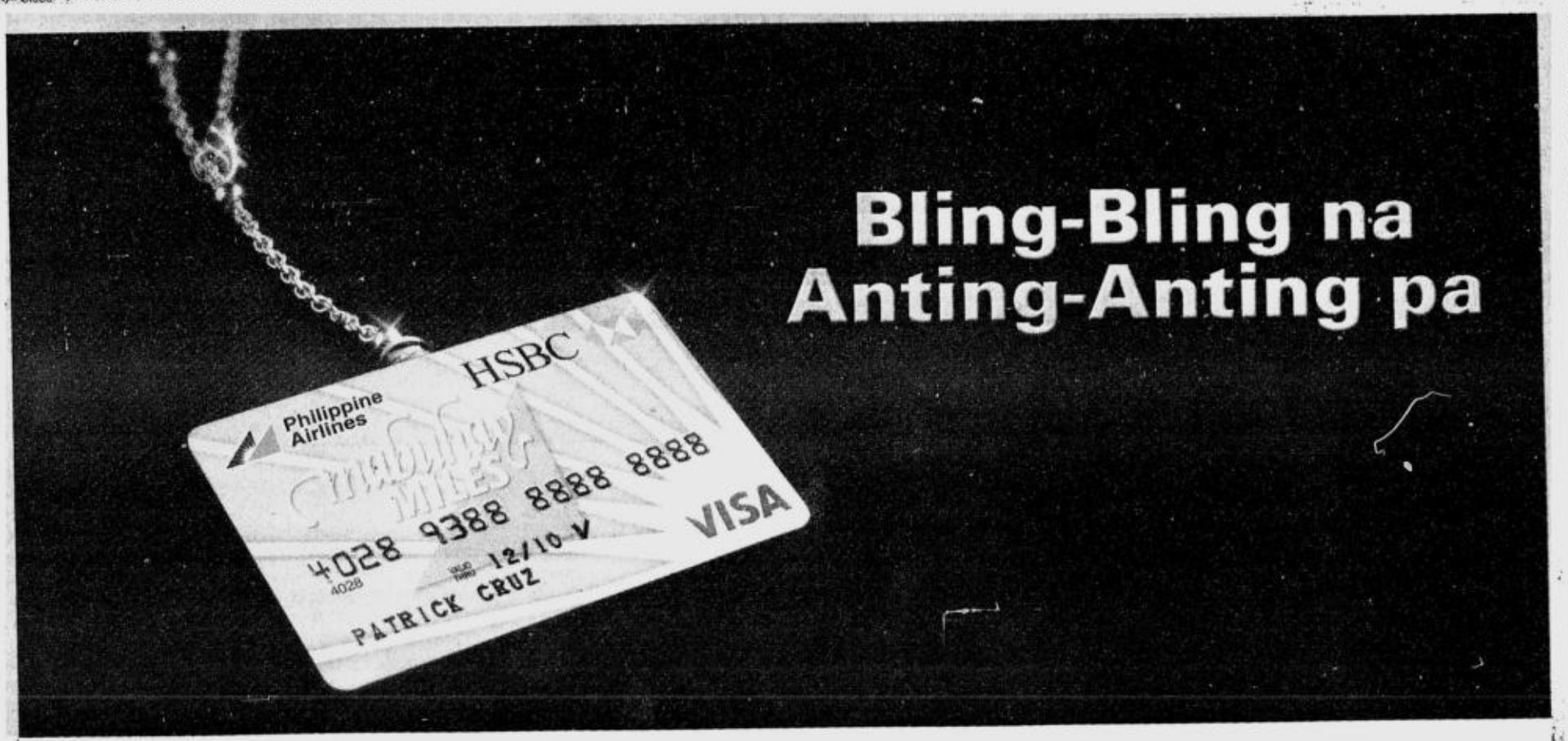

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INIGO de Leon, Joey and Tabbie Duarte

MADRIGAL trio. Tana, Chuchu and Senator Jamby

DR. IKE Campos, Ging Montinola and Dra. Susan Campos

MAI MAI and Herman Warns, Teri Madrigal and Sunshine de Leon

A special kind of matriarch

MINING czar Philip Romualdez greeting celebrant with mother Juliet Romualdez

BIRTHDAY celebrant Chito Madrigal, Melly Hechanova, Maurice A., Cathy G., Liding Oledan and Irene Francisco

From page E1

Saigon," "The King and I," and "Hunchback of Notre Dame" in a number of European and US productions.

When the mood suited them, other guests such as Cris Villonco, Nelson Camacho and Vernie Varga, accompanied by her husband Rick Oledan on the piano, also broke into song.

Chito Madrigal remains one of the few people in Manila who not only have witnessed, but also participated in the economic and social blossoming of the Philippines in Asia and the world after the war.

Mother of all

Other people will lionize her achievements in business, culture and philanthropy, but what sets her a cut above for her family is that while she was not blessed with children of her own, she slowly took to caring for others, playing second mother to her nieces and nephews, starting with Chuchu Madrigal Eduque, then on to Bu and Gustav Warns, Ging Gonzales Montinola, Susie Ortigas, Jamby Madrigal, and Tabbie Duarte.

My son Jonjon and I have learned so much from such a strong but tender woman.

And later on, as her older siblings passed away or were incapacitated by time, she has not only taken on the leadership of the Madrigal business interests, but also the stewardship of the family as a social entity.

It didn't have to be so, but time has transformed her natural independence into authority, as her various initiatives outside of the normal family domain have in many ways complemented or even overshadowed the family legacy.

Now, she is the glue that keeps the diverging members of the third, fourth and fifth generation in convivial companionship. Her stewardship allows the younger cousins to become close and the older cousins to become closer. She ensures that all members of the clan have a sense of history and family, aware of the present and the impact they could have on the future.

MANOLING and Ninit Paterno, first cousins of birthday celebrant

BILLIE and Millie del Rosario, Mary Prieto and daughter Marilou Prieto Lovina

MADRIGAL juveniles Julian Madrigal, Ysabela Duarte and Sofia Montinola

ING boss and party host Bing de Guzman with Senator Mar Roxas and R.I. Paeng Hechanova

DIPLOMAT and former Minister Manuel Collantes

MARY with Cris and Opap Villonco

GOOD friend, multi-talented Boysie Villavicencio

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ROTARIAN Jun Tambunting

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Josephine Darang

'Unique and multi-talented' priest marks silver jubilee

TUGUEGARAO ARCHBISHOP DIOSDADO Talamayan called Fr. Ranhilio Callangan-Aquino, who marked his silver jubilee as a priest, "unique and multi-talented."

In his homily during the May 27 Thanksgiving Mass at the Ermita de San Jacinto where Fr. Rannie is rector, Archbishop Talamayan said, "The Holy Spirit has been very generous to Fr. Rannie."

Fr. Rannie is no ordinary priest. He is dean of the Graduate School of Law in San Beda College and consultant for international law in the Office of the President in Malacañang.

He was the first diocesan priest to become dean of the graduate school of the University of Santo Tomas. He has doctorates in jurisprudence and philosophy.

Fr. Rannie's father is retired Court of Appeals Justice Hilarion Aquino and his mother is Dean Leticia Aquino of the College of Law of the Cagayan State University. His only brother is RTC Judge Jezerine Aquino, while his sister Michee is the Social Studies head of San Beda Alabang.

I felt blessed to be at the Mass concelebrated by Fr. Rannie's classmate Fr. Ferdinand Baculi, who will mark his own silver jubilee on Aug. 2.

After Fr. Rannie renewed his priestly vows, the choir sang Lecordaire's hymn "The Priest" with music composed by the celebrator.

The Coro de San Jacinto and the St. Paul University Chorale sang "To have a heart of fire for charity/ A heart of bronze for chastity/ To teach, to pardon, to console and bless always/ My God, what a life and it is yours, priest of Jesus Christ."

Miracle

When Fr. Rannie was two years old, he fell from a high chair and lost consciousness. His mother and his grandmother Constancia Sumabat Purugganan rushed him to the hospital praying all the time to Our Lady of Piat.

His grandmother promised, if the boy lived, she would bring him to Piat every year. Rannie lived. When he was brought to Piat to thank the Virgin, he told his mother he wanted to be a priest.

When he was ordained in 1982 by Archbishop Teodolfo Domingo, Fr. Rannie dedicated his priesthood to Our Lady of Piat.

Prayer

I asked Archbishop Talamayan how he lived his life as a priest for 50 years and a bishop for 23 years. He answered, "Prayer, prayer, prayer! It is heavenly impossible for a man to remain a priest. He needs to pray. He cannot do it alone."

Msgr. Vicente Catral, chancellor of the archdiocese, has been a priest for 58 years. He said prayer and love for God sustained him to remain committed. At the age of 83, Msgr. Catral still drives to parishes to celebrate Mass.

Choir of professionals

The Coro de San Jacinto and the St. Paul University Philippines Chorale performed May 19 as a joint choir at the "Easter Cantata" at St. John's Cathedral in Kuala Lumpur.

The *coro* is a choir of professionals directed by Fr. Rannie. The choir at the Ermita de San Jacinto, the oldest Catholic chapel in Tuguegarao City, it has performed throughout the country.

The SPU Chorale is directed by Sr. Corazon Querubin, SPC. The Kuala Lumpur Cantata was hosted by Monsignor James Gnana, rector of the Cathedral of St. John. Secretary Alberto Romulo directed the Philippine embassy to assist.

Feast

Novena Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart sponsored by the Apostleship of Prayer (AP) archdiocese of Manila will be held at the archdiocesan shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia at 12:15 p.m., June 6-14. Msgr. Emmanuel Sunga, AP spiritual director, will officiate at the fiesta Mass on June 15.

Other Mass celebrants are Fr. Sanny de Claro, June 6; Fr. Antonio Navarette Jr., June 7; Fr. Arlo Bernardo Yap, SVD, June 8; Bishop Federico Escaler, SJ, June 9; Fr. Macias "Wency" Serafica, June 10; Fr. Reynaldo Ocampo, SJ, June 11; Msgr. Sabino Vengco, June 12; Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Jr., June 13; and His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, June 14.

Eloisa "Baby" Lim is president of AP Manila. Members of the committee in charge of the activity are Gilda Villabona, Dr. Orby Valenzuela and Estella Denoga.

Radio show

The radio program "Hello Father" aired 9-11 p.m. on Radio Veritas (846 AM Band) is becoming more popular judging by the many calls it gets. It is anchored by Frs. Jerome Secilliano, Tony Navarette and Benjo Fajota.

FR. RANHILIO Callangan-Aquino with Alboy Narag, soloist of the Coro de San Jacinto choir and special assistant of the priest

Happy 90th

Rosenda dela Cueva of Echaque, Isabela turned 90 on May 12 to the joy of family and friends. Fr. Bernie Diaz, CM, celebrated Mass with Fr. Raymund Ruega, CM; Fr. Jun Jacobe, OMI; and Fr. Boyet Cabrera, OMI, as co-celebrants.

Lola Anday is the sister of Martina Cauilan Que, mother of Tony Que who, with his wife Mila, hosted a party. Son Nelson de la Cueva came home from the United States to greet her.

Delicacies

The blessed thing about going to the province is getting acquainted with local food and delicacies. Breakfast with Archbishop Talamayan at the bishop's residence meant a taste of *nan-na* made in Tuguegarao. It is *diket* or sweet rice eaten with ripe mango. Then there's *inatata*, a *suman*-like delicacy made in Cabagan; and *patopat* from Ballesteros.

Sharing *pancit* Cabagan with Samia Henrage for *merienda* makes one appreciate the simple things in life.

Book

Look for Fr. Henry Bocala's book "Arise and Walk" in Pauline centers. Published by St. Paul Publications, it was launched recently with students, priests and religious attending. Fr. Henry is an Opus Dei priest. For more info, please text 0928-6726246 or e-mail hancl968@gmail.com.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Dreading a meeting with in-laws

DEAR EMILY,

I am a stay-at-home wife of an OFW and I have a three-year-old daughter.

We have been living abroad for six years now but I remember vividly how badly I was treated by my in-laws. They were against me from the very start of my relationship with their son until we got married.

I cannot think of any reason why they will not accept me or even my daughter, for that matter. I always thought it was just a phase but then so many years had passed and still nothing had changed.

Sometimes I would cry, envying my married friends who are loved by their in-laws. Calls and other forms of communication from them would stress me.

They would always start by asking how we were doing and then they would deliver a bad news.

Part of the problem I suspect is the fact that my husband has a love child and they favor the girlfriend over me.

I tried to win my in-laws' approval in the past by visiting them despite their rude behavior towards me. But they would not even talk or look at me and my child when I was in their house.

I did it because I love my husband so much. But he is not doing anything about it. He knows how badly we are treated but he could not stand up to his parents and tell them to stop treating us badly.

I feel bad for my child because she has nothing to do with what is happening. We are scheduled to go back to the Philippines soon for a vacation and I know my husband would want to see his family—without my daughter and I.

That hurts! How do I tell my husband to protect us without making him choose between his parents and us?

MISERABLE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

You have been away six years and, for some people, that is an eternity.

Give your in-laws a chance. The six years you have not seen each other may have mellowed them. It happens, you know.

Do not expect your husband to change their personalities when you yourself are saying that you can still feel the hurt despite the six years away from them!

You should have already forgiven them and forgotten the pain the moment you left the country—and allowed the winds and the tides and your new environment to wash away everything.

There is a saying, "When you think how hard it is to change yourself, you begin to understand what little chance we have of changing others."

Think about it. We are standing on shifting sand. And remember that there are no permanent enemies. There are only permanent interests.

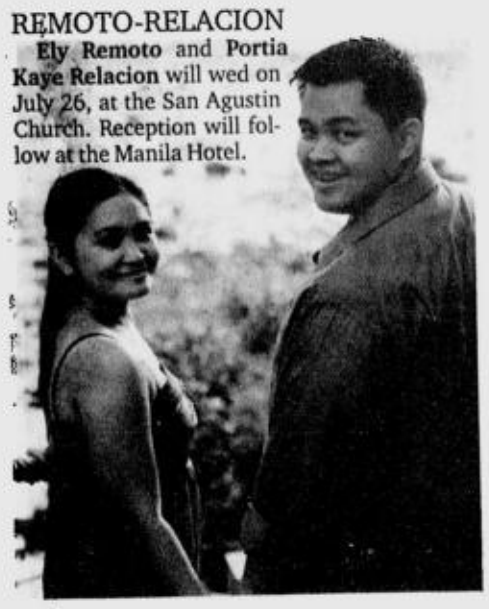
E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

REMOTO-RELACION

Ely Remoto and **Portia Kaye Relacion** will wed on July 26, at the San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at the Manila Hotel.

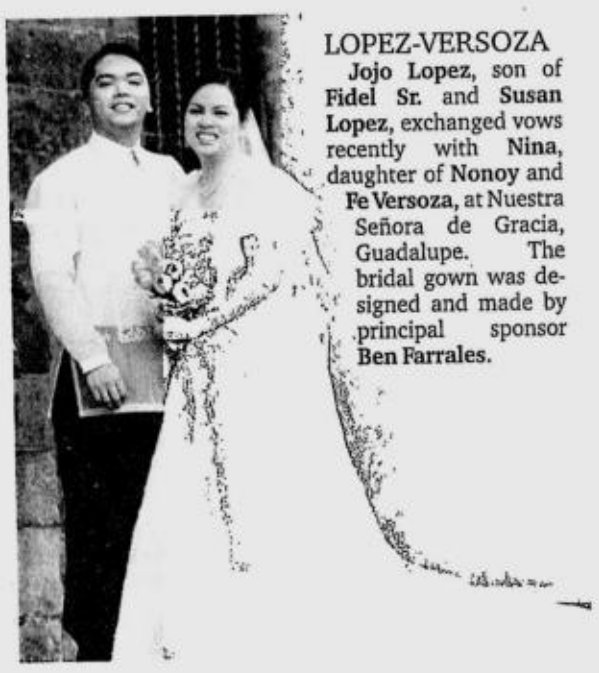


MANAHAN-ALMARIO

Ramon Manahan I, son of **Ramon** and **Imelda Manahan**, wed **Cherry Grace Almario**, daughter of **Laurel** and **Pacita Almario**, yesterday at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Reception was held at Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City.

GODWIN-HITOSIS

Andrew Godwin, son of **John** and **Diana Godwin**, exchanged vows recently with **Janneth Hitosis**, daughter of **Johnny** and **Rosita Hitosis**, at Transfiguration Chapel in Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas. The bride's brother, Rev. Fr. **Lito Hitosis**, SSS, officiated at the ceremonies. The reception was held at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. The bride's gown was designed by **Lemy Bolosada**.



LOPEZ-VERSOZA

Jojo Lopez, son of **Fidel Sr.** and **Susan Lopez**, exchanged vows recently with **Nina**, daughter of **Nonoy** and **Fe Versoza**, at Nuestra Señora de Gracia, Guadalupe. The bridal gown was designed and made by principal sponsor **Ben Farrales**.

MARCOS-BAÑEZ

Erwin Friedrick Marcos, son of **Edgardo** and **Sylvia Marcos**, exchanged vows recently with **Maria Genelyn Bañez**, daughter of engineer **Eugenio** and **Evelyn Bañez**, at Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City. Reception followed at the Christ the King Reception Hall.

OBEDOZA-MEJIA

John Fred Obedoza, son of **Fred** and **Delia Obedoza**, will wed **Melissa Mejia**, daughter of **Ramon** and **Malenn Mejia** on June 9, 3 p.m., at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philam Homes, QC. Reception will follow at the Grand Terrace along Commonwealth Avenue. The wedding gown was designed by **Dessie C. Aquino** and **Jasmin Aquino** of Le Desiderata Haute Couture.

LAMORENA GOLDEN WEDDING

Lawyer **Crispiniano** and **Filipina Lamorena** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary yesterday at Aquino Center, Luisita Compound, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

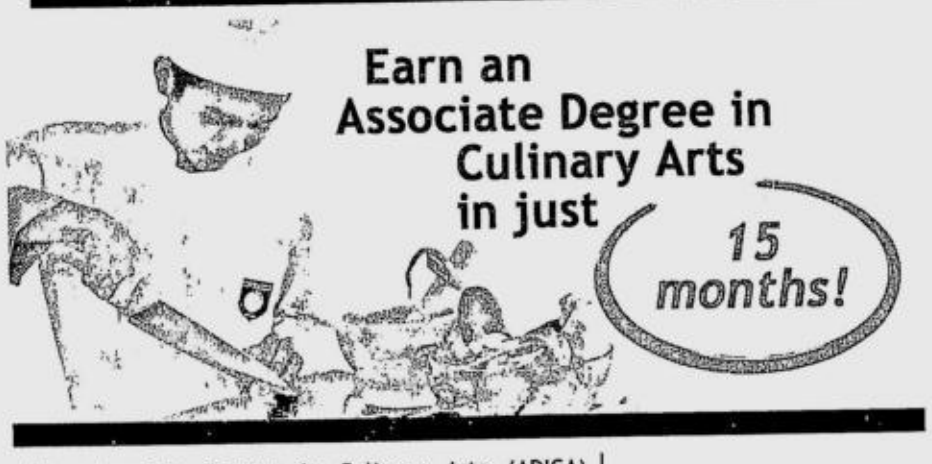
ARCE-OLIVEROS

Ryan Allan M. Arce exchanged vows recently with **Amachille A. Oliveros** at Oasis Garden Manila, Aurora Blvd., San Juan, Metro Manila.

Do you have a press release?

HELP THE INQUIRER maintain an earth-friendly system by sending us your press releases via e-mail. We cannot guarantee publication due to the volume of materials we receive every week, but if your release is concise, well-written and contains a complete description of a future event or a timely report of an event that has just happened, it has a better chance than most of seeing print. Date the release and indicate whether it is for immediate use or for a later date. Include your name and phone number(s). To avoid duplication, indicate if you have sent the same material to more than one section of the INQUIRER. Photos must be of high resolution in JPEG format. Follow-up calls are not necessary. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde



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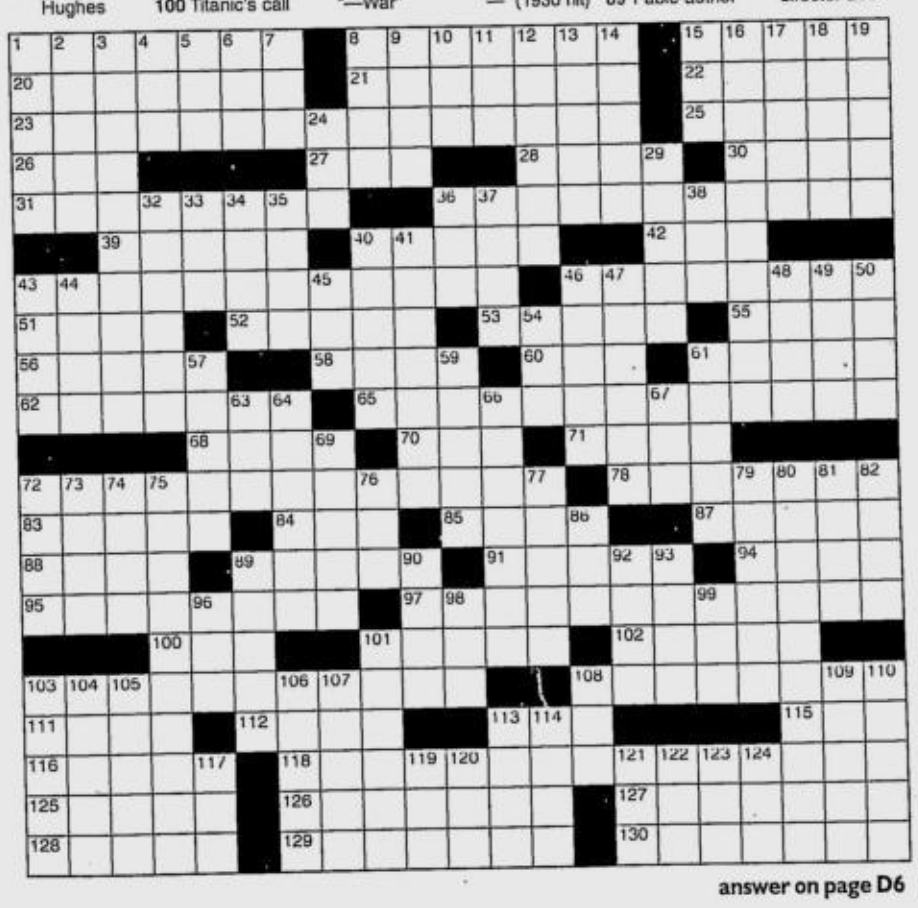
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — STARS

ACROSS
1 Island in the Gulf of Guinea
8 Had a vision
15 1996 presidential hopeful Alexander
20 Herald, as a new year
21 Endured longer than
22 Gladden
23 Treating
25 Schoolroom spinner
26 Zsa Zsa's sister
27 Victor Hugo's "— Miserables"
28 Twin of Jacob
30 Historic periods
31 Tending to one's own needs
36 Certain fairy of folklore
39 Wading bird
40 Leaves port
42 Price place
43 Cyclist's water holder
46 Rules
51 Inning's six
52 Ice skater Hughes
53 Removed the middle of
55 Film director Ephron
56 NFL coach Mike
58 Polar explorer Richard
60 Chop off
61 Lubed
62 Contracted involuntarily
65 1606-16 chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas
68 Uninspired
70 Chaney of old films
71 They lay nits
72 What an idealist may be shocked with
78 Dirty, run-down digs
83 Soap brand
84 Have a go at
85 Soap brand
87 Colander
88 Posh party
89 Eternities
91 Off-white
94 Narrow valley
95 Defames
97 Young puppy love
100 Titanic's call
101 Financial resources
102 Protestant work —
103 Depicting ordinary people's everyday events
108 Opposed
111 Needy
112 Rhyme user
113 Psych 101 topic
115 Year, on the Yucatan
116 Bandleader Shaw
118 Theme of this puzzle
125 Cranky folks
126 They nap noisily
127 Bride-to-be
128 Consenting replies
129 Most creepy
130 Large eels

DOWN
1 Apartment VIPs, for short
2 "— said all along ..."
3 1976 Broadway revival that ran for 13 years
4 William Shatner's "—War"
5 "Either she goes — go!"
6 Opposite of max.
7 H.S. subject
8 Inside info
9 Boring routines
10 Archaic verb ending
11 Astonish
12 Cantatas' kin
13 Clear away
14 Exclude
15 Shin locale
16 Like penicillin, to some
17 Native New Zealander
18 Ready to try for a homer
19 Singer Della
24 Suffix with glob or duct
29 "Como esta —?"
32 Does a pat-down on
33 Coupe, e.g.
34 Aardvarks, eat them
35 Country's McEntire
36 Humorist Shriner
37 Baldwin of "Beetlejuice"
38 Lobby org.
40 Remains
41 "I Still Get —" (1930 hit)
43 Lays a lawn on
44 Witty bit
45 Eye, in verse
46 Skulk about
47 Fix up
48 Royal sport
49 Taxing trip
50 One-named Nigerian singer
54 Antiquated
57 Perth —, New Jersey
59 R2-D2, e.g.
61 Playwright Clifford
63 Fairy kin
64 Flitting one
66 Roped in
67 TV producer
69 Deli subs
72 Springy dances
73 Track shape
74 "Whatever — Wants"
75 Write out in another language
76 Author Rand
77 Fish stories
79 River through Iraq
80 Averseness
81 St. intersectors
82 Phnom —, Cambodia
86 Open field
89 Fable author
90 Double — Oreos
92 Tommie of the 93-Down
93 New York team
96 Female rat
98 Missouri-to-Maine dir.
99 Greek letter
101 Appropriate to
103 In la-la land (Var.)
104 Actor Peter
105 Tiny bits
106 Bob of "All That Jazz"
107 Director Sergio
108 L. — Hubbard
109 Bitter- — (diehard)
110 Prescription quantities
113 Has it wrong
114 Central idea
117 Twisted letter
119 Prefix with state
120 Ruby or Sandra
121 Alternative to Popeyes
122 Life story, briefly
123 Sprinted
124 "The Ice Storm" director Lee



answer on page D6

So much to do? Go sweat it out!

Whether you're an ordinary person going about your daily routine or a professional athlete training for an important competition, you face strenuous activities that make you sweat. Unfortunately, fluid loss from sweating can result to loss of essential minerals that your body needs to stay active. Excessive fluid loss during any vigorous activity can even lead to heat stroke and exhaustion. That's why it's important to take enough liquids before, during, and after these tiring tasks.

Most people mistakenly assume that water is the best drink after a heavy workout or a trip to the beach. Unfortunately, water lacks the nutrients to give you the energy you need. It cannot replace electrolyte nutrients like sodium and potassium that are lost when you sweat. Carbonated drinks can't do the trick either. While research claims that people are more likely to drink carbonated drinks than water, these drinks easily leave you with a full stomach, preventing you from drinking enough to regain all your lost minerals.

What's important is quality, not quantity. What you need is a good source of minerals and nutrients, useful for replacing fluid loss from activities like playing sports, taking a warm bath or even sleeping.

Pocari Sweat is a breakthrough health drink from Japan that gives back all the electrolyte nutrients that the body loses when sweating. Just like our bodies' own fluids, it contains calcium (Ca), sodium (Na), magnesium (Mg), and potassium (K) ions. By giving your body the right amount of electrolyte nutrients, Pocari Sweat gives your body enough energy to last the day. While other drinks offer various flavors, Pocari Sweat has remained true to its original taste. **It has no artificial colors or preservatives** unlike commercially sold sports drinks. It is gentle on the body, more easily absorbed than plain water, and is not disruptive to the important balance of body fluids, which makes it healthy for kids and adults alike.

Pocari Sweat is produced and distributed in other countries, such as Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, and now, in the Philippines.

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Fresh from Japan comes Pocari Sweat, a breakthrough health drink that gives your body the right amount of nutrients lost when you sweat – for energy to last you the whole day!

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INSIDE

Jane Fonda at 70 In Hollywood G/3

Blake Lewis didn't sell out Exclusive G/4

On quick fixes and cheap thrills

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esperas

FIFTY-TWO BOYS FROM TONDO, MANILA, answered the call for actors for "Tribu," one of the 18 full-length features of this year's Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Director Jim Libiran posted announcements in key areas in Tondo that said, "*Ikaw ba ay miyembro ng gang? Gusto mo bang maging artista?*" His production team picked 45 youngsters from the batch.

Real-life Tondo street gang members star in 'Tribu' for Cinemalaya

"Tribu" tells of the "darker side of Tondo," where boys join gangs in search of "quick fixes and cheap thrills." Its main characters are a group bound by their love of hip-hop music and freestyle gangsta rap.

The film, which runs for an hour and a half, is based on Libiran's 2006 Palanca award-winning screenplay of the same title. It was shot entirely in Tondo, where the late director Lino Brocka filmed his prize-winning "Insiang."

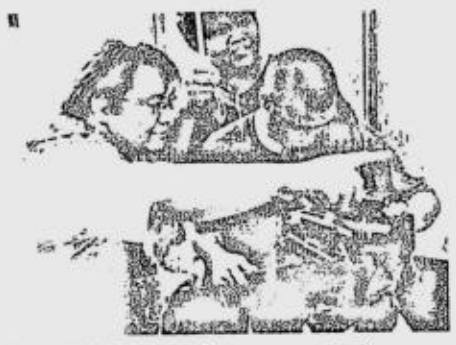
Ghetto rap

"Six of the 100 gangs in Tondo are featured in this movie," Libiran told INQUIRER Entertainment during a visit to the "Tribu" set. "The actors are mostly ghetto rap artists from warring 'tribes.'"

For the first-time thespians, a series of workshops was conducted by Soliman Cruz, Malu Crisologo and Libiran himself.

"On the first day of the workshop, all of the boys were carrying live weapons. When Soliman instructed them to close their eyes and

ON QUICK/F2



THE MOVIE is based on Jim Libiran's (left) 2006 Palanca award-winning screenplay.

JAMIR Garcia, L, of Slapshock, and Dice of Dice and K9

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Chasing Cars	Snow Patrol	TRUE CHASINCARS	MYTUNE CHASINCARS
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You and Me	Lifehouse	TRUE YOUNME	–
Smile Like You Mean It	The Killers	TRUE SMILE	–
Let Me Go	3 Doors Down	–	MYTUNE LETMEGO
Somewhere Only We Know	Keane	–	MYTUNE ONLYWEKNOW
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What a difference a good guest makes

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TV PRODUCERS AND PROGRAM HOSTS really should work much harder to get good interviewees and panelists to guest on their shows.

All too often they take the easy, unenlightened way out and trot out the usual bumptious government officials, self-centered social icons or smug "achievers," thus adding more hot air to the already helium-air-headed TV set.

Those thoughts come to mind, because we recently caught an episode of "Light Talk," a program hosted by Bishop **Chito Tagle**. Initially, the show appeared to be unremarkable, par for the course—until one of the guests, economics professor **Solita Monsod**, started weighing in with her thoughts, opinions, asides, jokes and sundry other comments.

Instantly, the show perked up. Monsod was a good—no, a great—guest, because she spoke her mind, articulated her thoughts in clear, colorful terms, and knew what she was talking about.

Those plus points are what people who appear on TV should possess.

They prevent talk TV from being the usual, predictable, boring, self-serving series of safe, endlessly regurgitated statements that don't really say much that's useful to viewers who want to get a genuine understanding of the topic being discussed.

The other guests weren't all that bad—they had the right statistics at the tips of their fingers, they spoke up when addressed. But what they didn't do was to provide a personal perspective that would help make sense of the weighty problem being discussed: employment prospects for new graduates. As a result the topic remained relatively abstract, until Monsod humanized and personalized it with her observations and insights.

There are other people who would also make good guests on TV shows, but they don't get invited because TV producers don't make it their business to know them.

That's one of the sad realities about local television: Many of the people working in it do
and don't make
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'Die Hard 4.0'

Bruce Willis
4.0." This time,
in desperate att
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He picks up
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team up in an a

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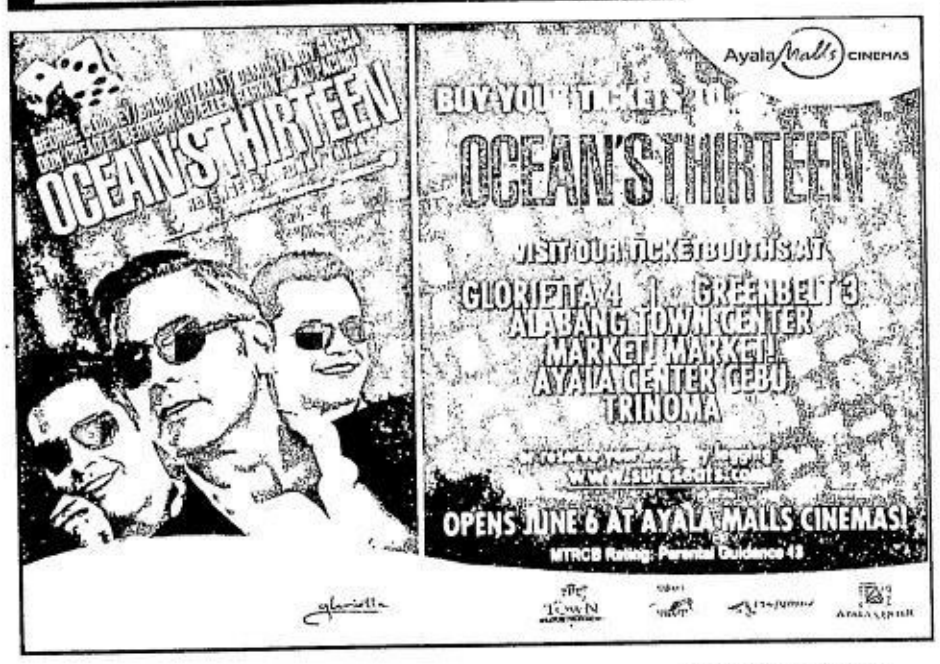

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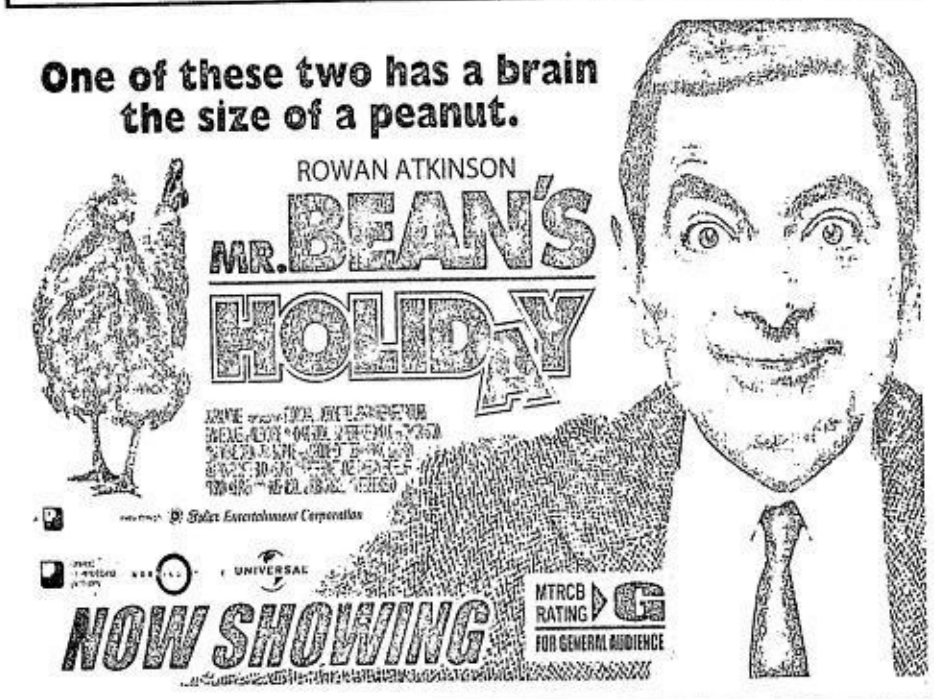

TRUE Brown Style's Ghe-Ghe, OG Sacred and Lil Col

On quick fixes ...

feel their roles, no one wanted to follow him. All were cautious," Libiran recounted. "Now they're all buddies, inseparable. I realized that cinema could be used as a tool for conflict resolution."

In his month-long immersion in Tondo, Libiran discovered that the tribe members, mostly out-of-school youths, are also involved in underground recordings. "They write songs and have mini-recording studios in their houses," he said. "They use freestyle rap to express their feelings for each other and about rival tribes. Sometimes, trouble starts *kapag nagkakapikunan*."

The director added: "Everything is

captured in
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The mov
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Dice and K
Gloc 9.

The mo
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"Tribu" gan
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Makati.

The thir
dependent
from July 1

FIRST-time actors review their work

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o in a lazy knee-jerk manner, their responsibility to be tru- e about the talent pool avail- grams to make good use of.

ple are also leery of frank, nionated guests whose hon- comments could get their ws in hot water. This timidity shared by some hosts who p short of asking the sharp stions that really matter, for r of having to juggle hot pota- in their thinned-skinned nds.

For these and other reasons, talk shows pretty much skim surface when it comes to ning to grips with the "impor- t" topics they choose to dis-

truly engaged and engaging lita Monsod.

r TV people really do their showcase other people who, n make TV screen flare alive iewers from its pervasive pall nd tedium.

s back in action in "Die Hard is character John McClane is mpt to save the US from a cy-

rrel (Justin Long) for routine omputer hacker suspected of errorist activities, he turns out ible because of his technical mputer skills. So the two men empt to save the US.

work to end gang wars.

From page F1

this film, including stories ng stabbed on the streets or ne in jail."

e also features popular rap Jamir Garcia of Slapshock, . Loonie of Stick Figgas and

ie theme and soundtrack osed and recorded by the zsta rappers. The group re- ormed during a PBA half- and at the Saguijo bar in

Cinemalaya Philippine In- Film Festival will be held to 29.

LEAD child actor Karl Balingit, R, is 10 years old. Tondo's Rey "Caloy" Javier, L, was once a Sampaguita Pictures artist.

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12 28 WEEKS LATER

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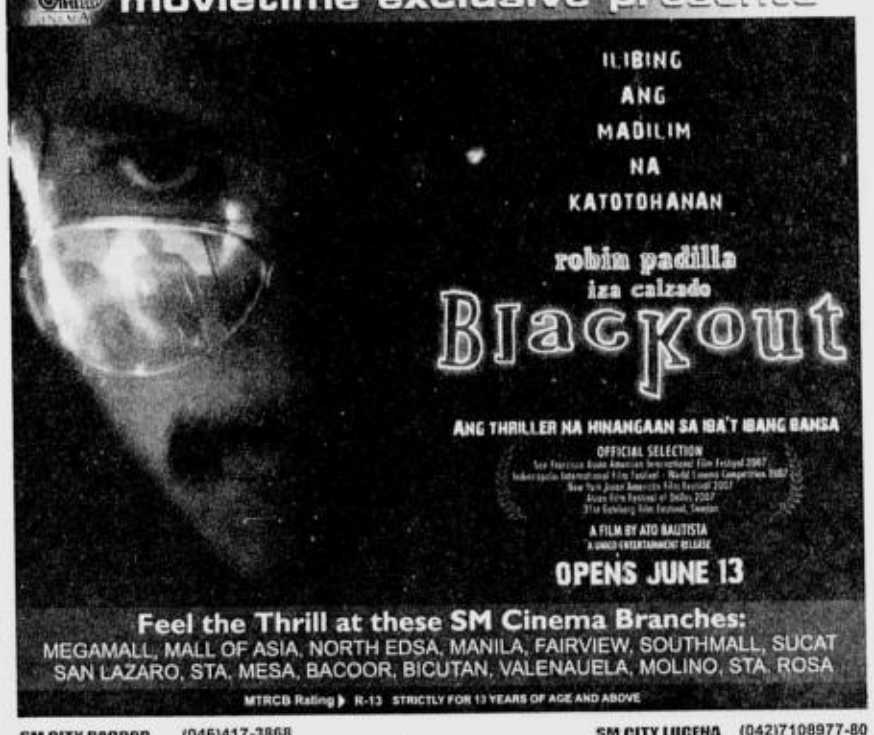

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2 LUCKY YOU
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 SHREK 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 FRACTURE
2 CONDEMNED
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 RESERVED
8 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 THE LAST MIMZY
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SHREK 3
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

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GALLERIA

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
11:10 1:20 3:30 6:20 9:30
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 ZODIAC
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
8 indieSine: METLOGS
1:30 3:20 5:10 8:50
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:15 4:05 6:55 9:45
10 SHREK 3
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

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Cris Pablo's
METLOGS!

Starring: CHOCOLEYT
3 young men leave their provinces to try their luck in Metro Manila. They come under the care of Vitarich, an aging gay full of wit and wisdom. Metlogs is a fun film about young men and their survival tactics for the harsh and expensive urban lives they lead.
MAY 30 to JUNE 05
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
MTRCB Rating: PG13

ERMITA

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN? 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
2 FRACTURE 12:35 3:00
WHISPER 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 SHREK 3
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 ZODIAC
12:45 3:50 6:55 10:00
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:15 2:50 6:25 10:00

METRO EAST

1 SHREK 3
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2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
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3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
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4 SPIDER-MAN 3
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5 FRACTURE 12:30 2:45
WHISPER 5:10 7:00 9:00
6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2:40 5:50
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 SHREK 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

PIONEER

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
1:40 5:05 8:30
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:40
3 SHREK 3
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

STA. ROSA
1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 SHREK 3
4 LUCKY YOU
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

LIPA
1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 THE LAST MIMZY
4 SHREK 3
5 FIREHOUSE DOG

DASMARINAS
1 LUCKY YOU
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK 3

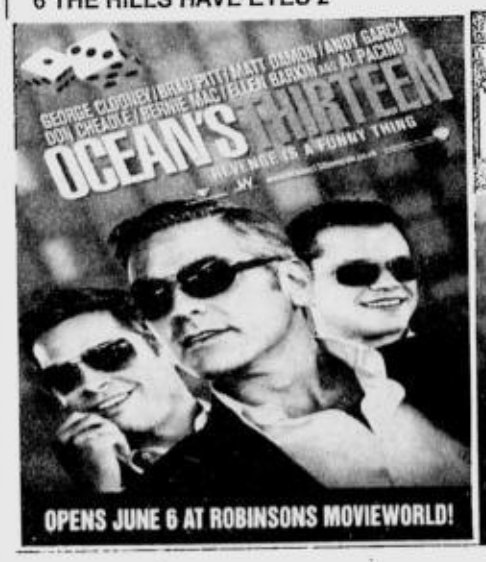
ANGELES
1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

IMUS
1 FRACTURE
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PREMONITION
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
6 SHREK 3

STARMILLS
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
6 28 WEEKS LATER

BACOLOD
1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 RESERVE
4 SHREK 3
5 FIREHOUSE DOG
6 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

ILOILO
1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 SHREK 3
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
5 FRACTURE
6 THE CONDEMNED



What does it take to steal 500 million dollars in 35 minutes?
3 days to go to find out!
Send your answer to the movie station of the day and win Exclusive OCEAN'S THIRTEEN movie items.
This Oscar-winning director directs George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle and the entire ensemble case of Ocean's 13 for the third time. Who is he?
a. Steven Soderbergh b. Tim Burton
c. Tom Hanks
Please email answers to:
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with your complete name, address, contact number.
There will be different questions each day.
Winners will be notified via email.

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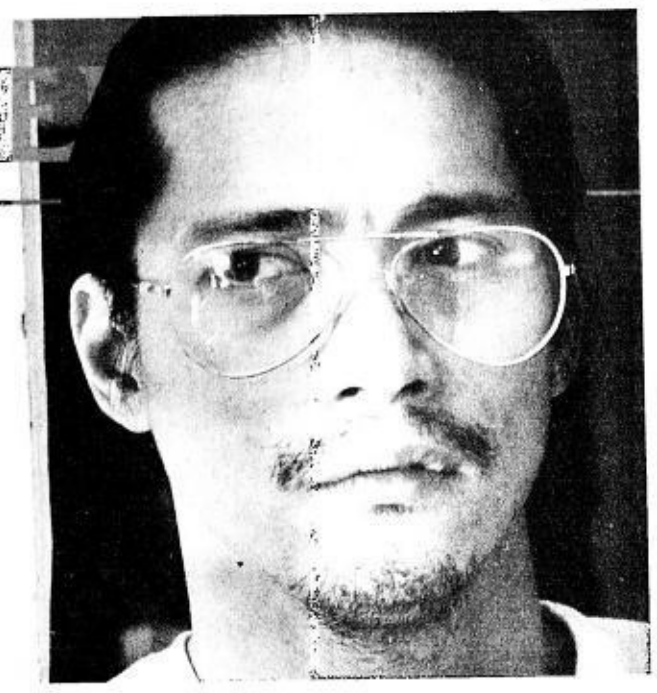
Robin's kind of revolution

Or how former Bad Boy feels about his 'little movie' being shown abroad

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



ROBIN PADILLA

MINUTES BEFORE boarding a plane bound for China on Thursday, Robin Padilla found time to discuss his latest pet project, Unico Entertainment's "Blackout."

It was seven in the morning. The night before, he wrapped up a "big scene" shot at La Mesa Dam Watershed and Ecological Park for the GMA 7 adventure series "Asian Treasures."

"Change location *namin sa* China," he jokingly told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview. "I'm tired, but I'm looking forward to Beijing. It's my first time there," he said. Apart from the "Asian" cast, Padilla will also be with his two daughters Kyle and Queenie in China—his treat for them, he said, because they had topped a muay Thai competition.

He will be back in time for the opening on June 13 of independent director Ato Bautista's "Blackout."

The movie is especially close to his heart, the actor said. Upon reading the script (by Bautista and Shugo Praico) and after watching Bautista's acclaimed debut feature "Sa Aking Pagkakagising Mula sa Kamulatan," Padilla readily signed up for "Blackout."

Padilla explained: "It's well-written—not like the usual Filipino suspense thrillers. It shows the effects of alcoholism, and how this addiction leads a man to neglect his child."

It is Padilla's second project with Unico/Unitel. The first, Mark Meily's comedic romp "La Visa Loca," gave him an Urian Best Actor trophy.

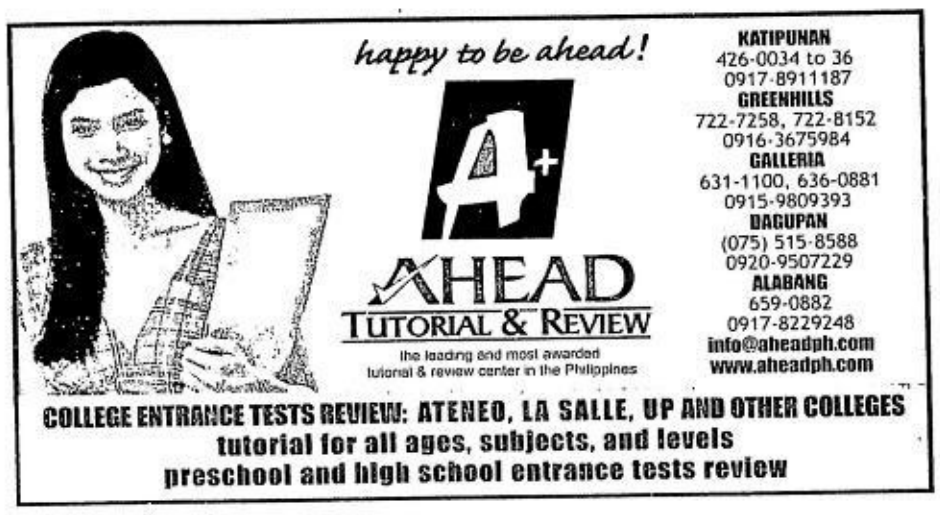
In an earlier interview, Bautista marveled at Padilla's dedication and discipline: "Method actor that he is, he gave more than expected. A month before production, I gave him the theme music. He listened to it repeatedly as he studied the script."

Padilla confirmed, "I listened to the music every day. My director wanted me to follow the film's rhythm—movements neither too fast nor too slow. My neighbors [in the apartment compound] must have turned deaf hearing the movie theme!"

Therein lies the tale.

Tony Gloria, Unico executive producer, told INQUIRER that, three days before the official start of the shoot,

ROBIN'S/ G2



It's **T-Day** for Transformers fans of all ages as they get the rare opportunity to get a first official look – and take home – toys and games based on the upcoming Transformers feature film on Saturday, June 9 at the SM Megamall Events Center.

Toy Kingdom's **Transformers Movie Toy Launch** will be the first time the public will see a new line-up of toys and games from Hasbro based on the characters and styling of the new live action film.

Hasbro has changed the way we see action figures with Transformers, that as their name implies, can literally be transformed from one form to another – most often from robot mode to vehicle mode. And Toy Kingdom, the amazing toy superstore, brings this epic battle of supremacy between the heroic Autobots and the evil Decepticons.

Transformers fans of all ages will not only get a chance to bring the action and adventure home with them, but also experience a whole day of fun and excitement. Stage games and a museum showcase of Transformers toys from Cybertron Philippines, a group of Transformers collectors.

A must for all T-enthusiasts, Toy Kingdom's **Transformers Movie Toy Launch** will take place on Saturday, June 9 at the SM Megamall Events Center.

The Exclusive Transformers Movie Toy Launch by Toy Kingdom will feature a Museum showcase of past Transformers figures. Shown here from the Transformers Cybertron Supreme Class: Cybertron Primus figure. Primus is the mighty creator of the Transformers race.

Change the incredible supreme-sized Primus figure from mighty Cybertron protector to battle station and back!

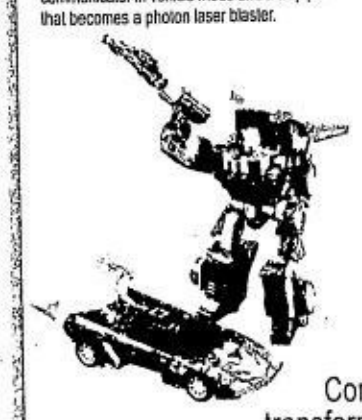
For more than 20 years, Transformers have given kids the power to literally transform figures from one form to another. The amazing Metroplex figure changes into a detailed vehicle and features electronic sounds and key-activated features.

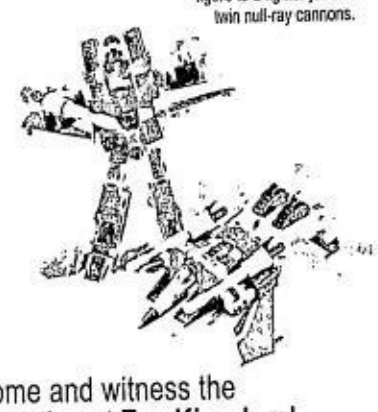
Cybertron Leader Class: Metroplex. Metroplex is kind and a wise leader to his people.

Previous Transformers figures still captivate fans of all ages like the Rodimus and Starscream figures. Rodimus is a high-ranking officer of the heroic Autobots while Starscream is the megalomaniacal second-in-command of the evil Decepticons.

Awesome robot-to-race car Rodimus figure features a flip-out data-com communicator in vehicle mode and a tailpipe that becomes a photon laser blaster.

Change the Starscream robot figure to a fighter jet with twin null-ray cannons.





Come and witness the transformation at **Toy Kingdom**!

Robin's kind of . . .

From page G1

Padilla moved in to the location, a run-down apartment complex in Cubao, Quezon City.

"Two weeks prior, he started wearing his costumes," Bautista added. "He asked how I envisioned his character, Gil Blanco (the drunken landlord). I told him that Gil slouched like I did. He mimicked me!"

Co-star Iza Calzado predicted that moviegoers would see "a different Robin Padilla."

Padilla explained: "I wanted to enter Gil's world. I lived in the apartment on my own, without an assistant or helper, as Gil would. In the mornings, I would stroll around the compound."

He expressed pride that his "little movie" is being shown in different film festivals in the United States from March to August, and next year in Sweden. "That is the revolution that I want," he said, "a revolution of ideas. It feels great that a Filipino film is being noticed abroad because of its story and how well-made it is."

DID YOU KNOW...

Spidey sinks 'Titanic' in India

"SPIDER-MAN 3" has earned 570 million rupees ($14 million) since it was released earlier this month at a record 588 theaters across India, the Economic Times reported.

The previous Hollywood hit was "Titanic," which collected 555 million rupees. *AP*

FACT: 5000 DEAD WOMEN, 1,700 MORE MISSING.

The **killings** began in ***1993***.

The **victims**, all poor women, were **raped, strangled** and **mutilated**. They were a particular type — young and slender, with brown skin and long brown hair.

These **mysterious** and **brutal deaths** took place in Juárez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, and they have **continued** for **13 years**, with **no end** in sight.

With a **body count** now **estimated** at some **5000**, and **1,700 more missing**, these mysterious killings have been called the **Maquiladora Murders**.

As bodies continue to turn up, so have a host of **theories**. Perhaps victims of **dark satanic rituals, organ harvesters , femicide** or **misogyny**???

OPENS JUNE 6

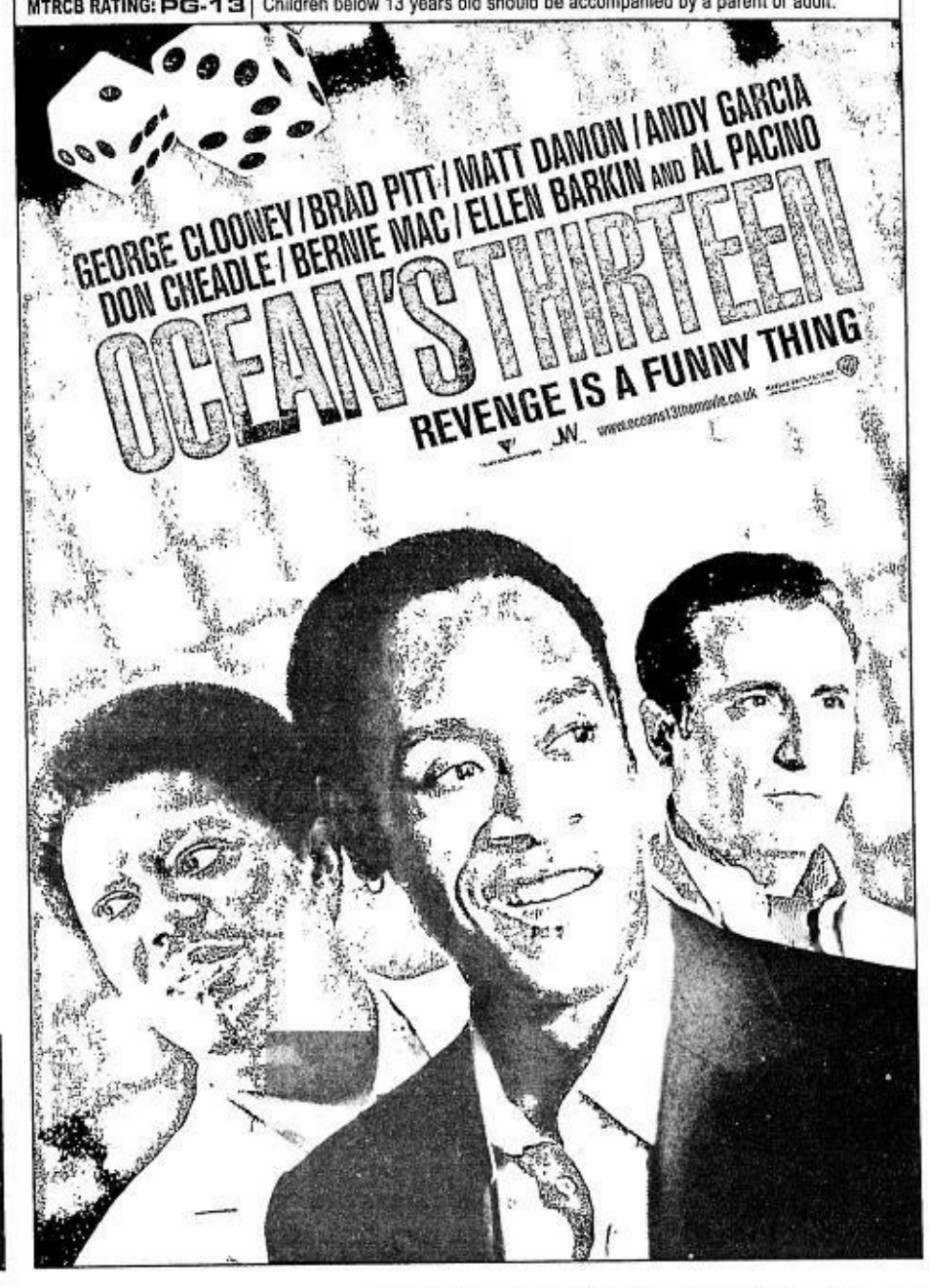
JENNIFER LOPEZ ANTONIO BANDERAS

BORDERTOWN

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS.

OPENS JUNE 6!

MTRCB RATING: PG-13 | Children below 13 years old should be accompanied by a parent or adult.



gloriettta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 ZODIAC	4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SPIDER-MAN 3	5 SHREK 3	6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY	7 ZODIAC
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	5 ZODIAC GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY		
	3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 ZODIAC	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY	2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	4 SHREK 3
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY		
	3 SHREK 3	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 ZODIAC	

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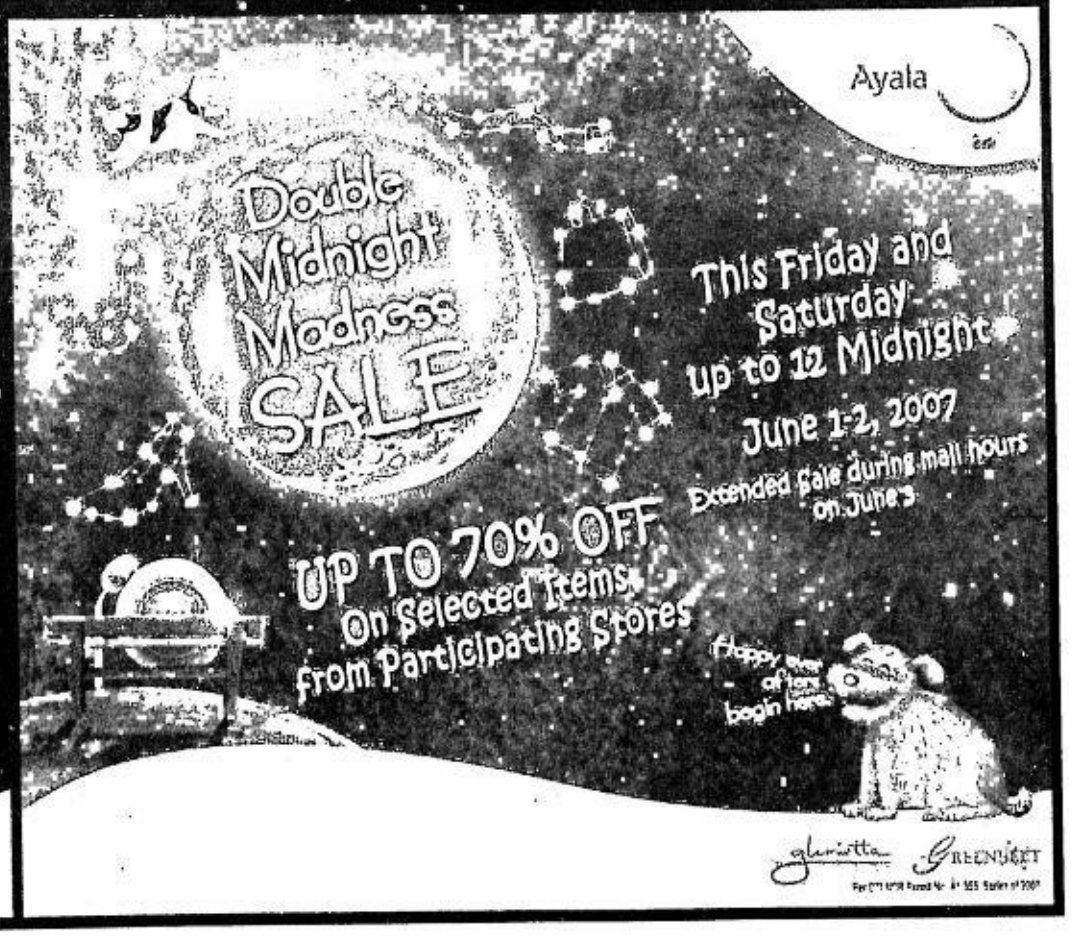
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
The Philippine Star's Go-4 K.O June 2, 2007	Fitness at the Town: Free well-being & invigorating health classes at Cortes De Las Palmas & Town Plaza June 1 to 13, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Strawberry Shortcake & Friends - The Big Berry Bake Off at Onstage, cinema 1 June 1 to 3, 2007	QTV 11: May Trabaho Ka "Fashion Show" June 2, 2007

GREENBELT — Double Midnight Madness Sale; June 1 & 2 - up to 12 midnight; June 3 - extended sale during mall hours

Onstage — ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM — Embroidered Mutiplies: 16th - 19th Century Philippine Costume fr. The Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology), The Netherlands; June 4 to July 1, 2007. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org



Jane Fonda on Lohan and finding God

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—A FEW WEEKS BEFORE **Lindsay Lohan** crashed her car and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, **Jane Fonda** said in an interview about the young actress, her co-star in the movie "Georgia Rule":

"She is basically a very nice young woman. She turned 20 on the (set of the) film, lest we forget. She's a kid. And she's never had the benefit that most of us have—a family structure, the kind of nurturing and support that we've had. And you lay on the fact that she has been a celebrity since she was 12—when being a celebrity was very different than when I was growing up. We need to have empathy, compassion and send up a lot of prayers for her."

The acclaimed actress, feminist and anti-war activist arrived at the press con wearing the same clothes she wore on the plane because the airline lost all her luggage. She even lost—gasp from this "crackberry"-addicted columnist—her Blackberry.

But the Oscar and Golden Globe-winning actress was cool about the missing suitcases: "It's kind of a great experience. I lost my cell phone, my Blackberry. Then I just said to myself, I lived about 68 years without a Blackberry. I can certainly live without a Blackberry. I have a wonderful person who does my hair and make-up. So I didn't have to worry about that. And the hotel gave me a toothbrush. This (dress she was wearing) is what I traveled in. And so what?"

At this press con held before the Cannes Film Festival, the daughter of the late actor **Henry Fonda** said, "I miss my dad a lot. I'm going to Cannes. They're going to honor him."

It turned out that Jane was lured to Cannes with an event supposedly to honor her dad. Instead, the actress was surprised with a lifetime achievement Palme d'Or. News reports quoted the political activist as saying in her acceptance speech that she hoped "the United States will again become the country that [Henry] stood for."

The festival did pay tribute to Henry with a gala screening of his classic film, "Twelve Angry Men." News stories recounted that Jane was visibly moved and surprised when her award was announced at a dinner after the screening.

The Golden Palm prize had only been awarded three times before since 1946, to actress **Jeanne Moreau** and filmmakers **Alain Resnais** and **Gerard Oury**.

While in Cannes, director **Robert Rodriguez** announced that he was doing a remake of Jane's 1968 cult hit "Barbarella," which launched her as a sex symbol. A scene in the sci-fi film involved Jane's gravity-defying striptease.

Jane went on to become a serious actress who protested actively against the Vietnam War. These days, Jane is very much involved with the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, which she created to work with pregnant teens in the Atlanta area.

"I carry a picture of [me as] Barbarella in my hip pocket, just to make myself feel better," Jane revealed. The actress, whose ex-husbands include media mogul **Ted Turner**, politician **Tom Hayden** and the late French director, **Roger Vadim**, turns 70 this year. She revealed that she finally found "somebody who is not an Alpha male, who's just a really good guy, who knows how to cherish me."

"I don't think at my age you can call him a boyfriend," declared the mother of **Vanessa Vadim** (who has two kids) and **Troy Garity**. "What do I call him? My man friend, partner, lover, guy, my significant other."

Popular for her fitness videotapes and books in the '80s, Jane continues to write. Her memoir, "My Life So Far," was published in 2005.

Did Lindsay ask you for advice while you were working together?

No, she didn't. It's hard to give advice to somebody who's not seeking it. But I did say to her that I love her very much and that I'm there for her if she ever needs me.

You talked about Lindsay being a celebrity since she was 12. What advantages do you believe you had, compared to Lindsay?

Look at my father—a man from Nebraska who had solid values of hard work, integrity, honesty and decency. My mother—there were problems. But if you have just one parent that you adore, whose qualities you can emulate, you're off on the right foot. I didn't become a celebrity until I was in my early 20s. That's very different from being a celebrity at 12 years old. It wasn't a time when the paparazzi were around every corner. It's hard for us to even imagine what's it like to be a young celebrity today. And on top of that, not having a family that teaches values. Lindsay is a public figure so we who are public people have to do everything we can to send love, understanding and give her an example. I just pray all the time for her.

This movie shows how hard it is to give advice to others, especially to family members. Is it hard to give advice to your children?

That question speaks right to my heart. I gave my daughter advice a few days ago. She got so mad at me that she hung up. So you know what I do? I have friends who are surrogate mothers. They give the advice to my daughter. And I keep my lips buckled. Because she won't take it from me. With my son, because I had him later, it's a little bit easier.

Look, I was not a great parent. I admitted that in my book. One of the reasons I wrote my book is because I wanted to communicate, especially to my daughter, that it had nothing to do with her. It was my problem. But I've learned that if you hang in there, if you keep trying to be better, it can happen later. I am growing closer to my daughter.

Your character in the movie, Georgia, has rules. What are yours?

Come on time. I'm usually five minutes early. Don't take the Lord's name in vain. I never stuck a piece of soap in somebody's mouth but my grandmother used to put one in mine when I said cuss words when I was little. Don't lie. Don't be mean. Walk away from the bully. I have grandkids so I have to deal with that. Forgive. Take responsibility for your mistakes. There's no other way to grow.

"I THINK I look good for my age."

> I'd like to make a movie that shows people over 70 having a hot erotic relationship

AT THE RECENT Cannes Film Festival, still a magnet for the media. REUTER

You have loved men who were fascinating. What qualities do you now look for in a man?

I do have a man now. I look for a man's capacity to cherish the object of his affection. That requires a capacity to show up and be capable of intimacy.

Do we know who he is?

You wouldn't know his name. That's another thing that is new. Finally, I'm with somebody who is not an Alpha male, who's just a really good guy, who knows how to cherish me.

What kind of movies are you still dreaming of making?

Before I die, I want to make a movie that shows people over 70 having a hot erotic relationship. I'd have to write the script myself.

That's going to give hope to older women. I try to talk about the fact that we're not meant to be perfect—that good enough is good enough—and to not have a lot of plastic surgery. I was with **Katharine Hepburn** in a movie that I produced with her. She was 74 when she made that movie ("On Golden Pond"). I don't think she had any plastic surgery. I think about her when I'm tempted to do something.

What kind of scripts or roles are sent or offered to you these days?

Let's be honest. I'm going to be 70 in December. There are not a lot of scripts coming my way. In the ones that have come my way, my characters are dour. I don't want to be dour. What I loved about my characters in "Monster-In-Law" and "Georgia Rule" is that they are spunky and have some humor. There's seriousness, too, but the characters are earnest, not dour. Strategically, the fact that my co-star (Lindsay) is a young celebrity doesn't hurt. As I said before with "Monster…," maybe some of you asked, why on earth did Jane Fonda come back with a movie like this? The audience loved that movie. To be able to come back in a very funny role, with a young actress who's a big star (**Jennifer Lopez**)—that opened me up to a whole new audience. I think young people will come to see this movie because of Lindsay. They'll say, "Who's the old broad?" That would be good.

You just talked about turning 70. Jack Nicholson, who turned 70, said that audiences don't like to see erotic scenes with people over 50.

Aging is hard for any woman, no matter what your career is. It's more difficult if you're an actress because of the pressures here and because we live in a country unlike France, where they treasure their aging women. The cult of youth here is hard to buck. But I've always bucked the stream. I want to do interesting parts, even a grandmother's.

I carry a picture of (me as) Barbarella in my hip pocket, just to make myself feel better. But you know, the underlying fact is, my younger years weren't so happy. I never thought of myself as a particularly beautiful person. So it's not like I look back with yearning over this fabulous youth time. And oh my God, I've lost my beauty and my youth. But I am far happier now. In my memoirs, I told my life story in three acts. I call the last act, which began when I was 60, the beginning. Why? Because it feels like the beginning. I feel like everything that led up to here has been a rehearsal. I feel like it has finally come together for me. There are a few changes but not that many. I've got wrinkles. So I prefer candlelight to bright overhead light when I'm having sex.

I think that for my age, I look good—enough. I don't have to be perfect. I just hope that when I'm on camera, the lighting is good. Because those of us of a certain age know everything's in the lighting. Some see my pictures in the papers and say, "See, she's had plastic surgery." I say, "It's the lighting, stupid."

Can you talk about how you found faith late in your life?

It's been gradual. I was raised as an atheist. Sometimes it's in the presence of pain and chaos that you begin to heal. It was when I was in tremendous pain that I began to feel the presence of the spirit in me, the sacred. That was when I began the process of becoming whole. Maybe it's different when this happens to you when you're older because you're really aware of it. As I became aware of this part of me moving back inside, I sort of said, this is God.

When I began to feel whole, I really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. I'm still in the beginning of a journey into what that means. And it's hard because I'm a feminist, especially in the way Christianity is viewed these days in this country. I'm a feminist Christian who is exploring what that means.

What would you tell women who don't have faith yet?

I don't proselytize about the issue of faith. Because I don't like people to proselytize to me. I try to teach by example. It's clear that I'm not miserable about being almost 70 years old. It's clear that I have become a whole person and that I own my life.

A few months ago, you came out openly against the Iraq war. What prompted you to speak out again? And how different is it for you now, compared to those years when you protested against the war in Vietnam?

I have very strong feelings about the Iraq war, as those of us who lived through the Vietnam experience do. It's like déjà vu. Yes, there are differences. But basically, we say to ourselves, "Why have we not learned?" Lies and arrogance don't work. You can't go to war with that arrogance and ignorance about the people with whom you're going to war against. We don't even understand them. The same thing happened in Vietnam. I've had strong feelings (about the Iraq war) from the beginning. I did not speak out because I felt that it would offer the administration too much opportunity to deflect attention away from the anti-war movement to. "There she goes again, with all the controversy (about my anti-war stance)."

And when I went to the anti-war demonstration in Washington a few months ago—which felt really good, by the way—I said, it's too late for silence. I wanted my presence to encourage the people who have been coming out, to do more.

It saddened me. When I went to the demonstrations during the Vietnam era, my daughter was a little girl. There she was, 38, with her children. I was glad they were there. But it was bittersweet—here we were again, you know.

What's a typical day for you when you are not making public appearances?

I just came from my ranch in New Mexico for 10 days—all by myself. I like to fly fish. I go there for spiritual retreats. I go riding. I meditate, read, study and write books. That's probably where I will spend summer—by myself. Hopefully, my grandkids will come and spend time with me. I earn money for my organizations by doing public speaking appearances around the country. I try to make them happen in one period. So I'll spend two weeks going from De Moines, Milwaukee to Miami, all over the country.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

WITH festival president Gilles Jacob, after being awarded a coveted Palme d'Or for Career Achievement. AFP

Yilmaz on Ruffa: Call her Brutus; I'm finished with her

"BRUTUS." "TRAITOR."

Yilmaz Bektas has struck back at his supposed tormentors—his wife **Ruffa Gutierrez** and her mother **Annabelle Rama**—and turned the tables, taking the role of victim.

In a televised interview with ABS-CBN's Europe News Bureau chief **Danny Buenafe**, the Turkish businessman said Ruffa, whom he repeatedly referred to as "this person," was negligent as a wife and as mother to their two daughters. She had two contradicting personalities, he said, one when they're alone and another in public, when she's with show biz friends. She could win the Oscar many times over for this, he added.

He learned of Ruffa's discontent from another person, he claimed. "And after that I think [her] name have to be traitor and I'm calling her name now Brutus (Julius Caesar's best friend and killer)."

RICA PERALEJO

How to cut costs

E-mailed by "Heckler At Large," quoting **Loi Reyes Landicho** of Guadalupe, Makati:

The Philippines' **Ana Theresa Licaros** won the Miss Photogenic title—decided through online voting—in the recently concluded Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City. Unverified pageant sources say Licaros got more votes than all the senatorial bets of Team Unity combined.

For the third straight year, the Philippine representative won said title. To minimize costs next year, the Bb. Pilipinas Charities will just send photos of the country's bet to the pageant. Smile!

Mean, mean text

SMS: **Tom Cruise+Katie Holmes**=TomKat. **Brad Pitt+Angelina Jolie**=BrAngelina. **Ogie Alcasid+Regine Velasquez**=OgRe. Mean, mean!

Top of the tabloids

Top stories in local tabloids this past week (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

•Annabelle, *dineretsa si* Yilmaz *na hiwalayan na si* Ruffa.

•Annabelle to Yilmaz: Leave my daughter alone! (Maybe she should say it in Turkish?)

•I'm finished with Ruffa—Yilmaz. (Sounds like: You're not firing me; I quit!)

•Ruffa G, *babalikan ang mga naiwang alahas sa* Istanbul.

•Switch! **Kris Aquino** crosses over from Belo Medical Clinic to Marie France.

•CR *ni* **Cogie (Domingo)** *namumutiktik ng litrato ni* **Angel (Locsin)**.

YILMAZ BEKTAS

•*Kawawa si* Regine *sa mga kamay ni* Ogie Alcasid.

•More of a whimper than a big bang. (Referring to Ogie's admission of romance with Regine, in light of Ruffa-Yilmaz bomb. In two words, rotten timing.)

•**Pia (Guanio)**, *tinalakan ng* PA *ni* Regine? (This PA should deal with Ogie, if ever.)

•*Dahil madalang ang* "booking," **Sex Bomb Girls** *nagsipag-asawa na. (Okay lang 'yan.* Some *artistas, dahil madalang ang* movies, do worse, including split up from their partners.)

•**Assunta (de Rossi)**, trying hard *mapag-usapan. (Madalang nga ang* movies *e.)*

•*Kalahati na ng taon*, 11 Tagalog films *pa lang ang naipapalabas. (Kitam?)*

•**Diana (Zubiri)** *at* **Francine (Prieto)**, *nagtanggal ng panty; si* **Polo (Ravales)** *nahiya, nagpalagay ng* plaster. *(Napakadalang talaga.)*

•**Gina Pareño** *sobrang nalungkot sa pagpanaw ni* Sakee. (Dog, gone.)

•**Rica (Peralejo)**, *binasted ang panliligaw ni* Piolo. (**Piolo Pascual**? What was she thinking?)

•Rica's loveless but has lots of "raket." (Ah, priorities.)

•Rica on Piolo: "I don't want to be dishonest."

•*Si* **Bea (Alonzo)** *naman target ni* Oyo. (Not enough projects?)

•**Erik (Santos)** gives **Rufa Mae (Quinto)** surprise birthday party.

•*Mga bukol ni* **Daboy**, *natutunaw na.*

•*Hindi manloloko si* **Juday**.

•*Anak-anakan ni* Juday, *daddy ang tawag kay* **Ryan**.

•*"Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"* now on video.

•**Ian de Leon**, *masama ang loob sa nanghusga sa kanyang ina.*

•What's wrong if **Guy** married a woman? (Overheard: In fact, who cares?)

•**Ciara (Sotto)**, *buntis at nagtatago sa* US?

•No to movies *ang* drama ni **Billy Crawford**. (After that bit role in "Exorcist"? Buy why?)

•Sharon, Kiko, *nagbabakasyon sa* Paris.

•**Claudine (Barretto)**, *mapapaaga ang panganganak.*

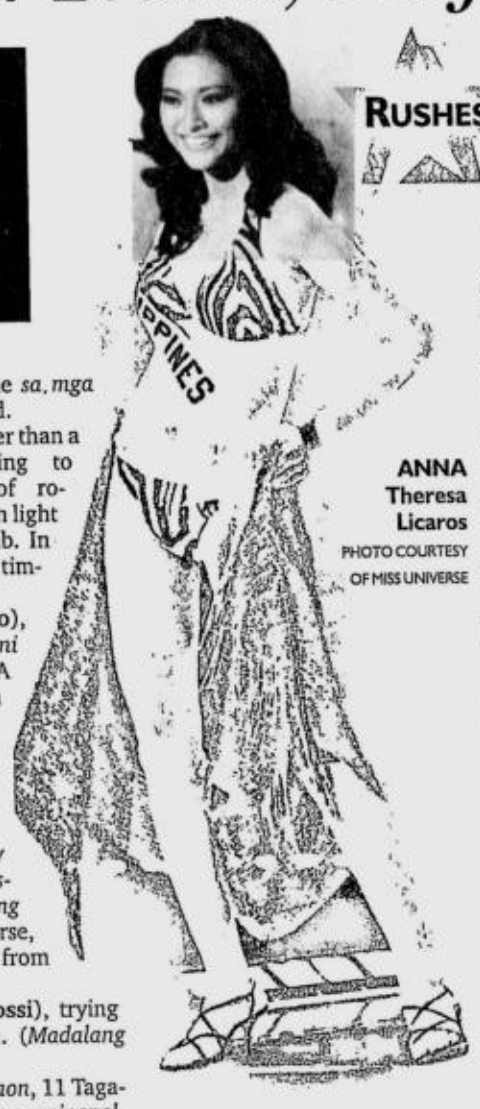
•**Iza (Calzado)**, *payag makipaglaplapan kay* **Sunshine (Dizon)**; Ogie, Regine, *naglaplapan sa* concert. (New sport?)

•*Hiwalayang* Marj-Dennis, weird.

•**Dennis** courting **Marjorie** again. (*May* movie *ba sila?*)

•**Paolo (Bediones)**, *tikom ang bibig sa* cybersex scandal.

•Ara, *handang harapin sina* **Jom (Yllana)**, **Pops (Fernandez)**.



RUSHES

ANNA Theresa Licaros

PHOTO COURTESY OF MISS UNIVERSE

CIARA SOTTO

That's his name

LOS ANGELES—Angelina Jolie's new adopted son now has the family name. Three-year-old **Pax Thien Jolie** is now Pax Thien Jolie-Pitt, according to a decree signed Thursday by Superior Court Judge **Gerald Rosenberg**. *AP*

A victor's magnanimity

NEW YORK—Until now, when asked about her favorite male singers, **Jordin Sparks** topped the list with **John Mayer** and **Justin Timberlake**. But the new "American Idol" champ said Wednesday she has another name to add: **Sanjaya Malakar**. "He had so much guts," the 17-year-old talent show winner told The Associated Press. "He had so much strength. He got a lot of criticism, but for him to go out on that stage and hold his head high ... I really look up to him for that. He's just an amazing kid."

No sellout for Blake

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

BEFORE HE BECAME AN "American Idol" finalist, season 6 runner-up Blake Lewis was a struggling artist in Seattle. After his impressive stint on the TV search, the beat-boxing 25-year-old was accused of selling out.

Has he?

Blake's retort: "[When I] start singing more songs like 'This Is My Now,' then you can say [I have sold out]."

Speaking in a teleconference a few days after the AI finale, Blake says there's nothing he would have done differently. "I had so much fun on the show," he says.

For him, the stint ended with a bang when he got the chance to perform with famous rapper, record producer and beat-boxer Doug E. Fresh for the finale.

What can we expect from you after the tour?

Definitely an album will be in the works, but not I'm not yet sure whom I might work with. I'm going to New York to talk to the right people and get that underway.

What song would sum up your "Idol" experience?

The most work I have put into any song was definitely in Jon Bon Jovi's "You Give Love a Bad Name." That one best represents me—performance-wise. Also "Keep Me Hanging On and "This is Where I Came In."

We're familiar with your charity work. Are you thinking of expanding that?

Not yet. I haven't had a lot of time to think. I'll be talking with my best friend, Kristi, head of the Blaker Girls, and we'll come up with something unique, to give back.

How exactly did you feel performing with Doug E. Fresh?

I met him a month and a half before, when he came out to support Akon and Gwen Stefani. He was backstage then. I went up to him and asked if he wanted to cipher after the show or something, so we went back in the hallway, and we did some question and answering back and forth with the beat box. It was a magical moment, and I asked if there was any chance that he could come to the show, and we could perform, even after "American Idol." He said, "Let's do it." Flash-forward to the finale: I get to rock the show with his '86 classic beat box song that inspired me, and it was just a real magical moment. So I was more excited than anything to end my run on "Idol" with Doug E. Fresh, one of my main inspirations.

BLAKE Lewis performs on "American Idol."

Do you think "American Idol" will be more hip, more contemporary because of what you brought to it—singing current songs, beat-boxing and all that?

I can only hope that it keeps a contemporary edge. There was definitely a lot of classic stuff going on this year.

What was your smartest song choice and why?

It really depends on the week. I was scared for country week, and I was lucky to sing, "When the Stars Go Blue." I think Bon Jovi, from the response, was probably the most successful song choice. I really loved the fact that I got to sing, "Keep Me Hanging On," and remix that.

What would you say is probably the best thing about not winning the title?

Oh, man, you know, I never thought I'd get to this moment ever. So that's a tough question to answer. I picked Jordin to be the winner in the top 24. I'm so completely satisfied coming in second. I would have been satisfied coming in fourth or fifth or sixth.

Do you wish you could have had a finale song that suited you better than "This is My Now"?

Definitely yes. "This is My Now" is one song I would never sing if I didn't have to. But it did fit Jordin, like, perfectly. I think there could be like an uplifting song that's not so linear. Honestly, they should have had a song that was tailored for both of us, but again, I'm happy ending up in second place.

When are you going to Seattle?

Hopefully, soon.

Which previous "American Idol" contestant's career, winner or not, do you want to emulate?

I'd like to set my own path.

You seem like the ladies' man. Have you always had that or did it grow on you?

I'm definitely not the ladies' man. I've been in some very serious relationships, and I think that's pretty funny. I was definitely like a nerdy loner in high school. So I think... I've gotten more confident in my relationships or in my journey in finding the right woman.

Jazz magic, romance on a rainy evening

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW

TRAFFIC WAS BAD AND IT WAS DRIZZLING all night last Friday.

Loud disco beats spilled out from a building near the Plaza Strip of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, where the 4th Makati Jazz and World Music Festival was in progress.

But this didn't stop the event from spreading good vibrations to an attentive audience of local executives, couples, artists—and media men taking a breather from deadlines, including INQUIRER publisher Gani Yambot and columnist Conrad de Quiros.

The performers delivered a surprising mix of styles that would have confused those whose concept of jazz was limited to laid-back guitar or saxophone sounds.

The percussion ensemble Brigada, for instance, cited Brazil's Carnival, UK garage, hip hop, drum 'n' bass and indigenous Filipino rhythms as influences. Watching the group was like joining an invigorating street party.

Juan Pablo Dream derived its sound from the R&B groups of the '60s, as well as the soul stirrings of Paul Weller in Style Council. Its music, though jazzy only in the sense that it swings with horn-enhanced arrangements, was warmly received for its joyous mood.

Brilliant improvisations

Guarana, one of the most engaging acts playing Latin jazz hereabouts, is noted for its lineup that includes the music of internationally renowned musicians like Richie Quirino and Michael Guevarra. Lead singer Eileen Sison had, for years, immersed herself in Brazilian life. As in all of Guarana's gigs, she invited the audience to dance the samba.

The main acts demonstrated brilliance in improvisation. Cooky Chua, a rocker in the band Color It Red, was a refreshing presence, her breathy vocals complementing the intoxicating sound of her backup trio. No drums were needed to keep the beat; bassist Simon Tan, guitarist Ricky Gonzalez and pianist Butch Saulog kept it simple and tight. Saulog was awesome. His cascading ad libs illustrated the very essence of artistic freedom in jazz.

Mon David brushed away the somber weather with a bouncy cover of "Moonlight Serenade." His vocal power was compelling. And as guitarist Aya Yuson and pianist Mark Lopez took solo turns, Mon picked up various percussion instruments to jam along.

It was difficult to keep still, especially when Mon started scatting. The ballads "More Than You Know," "Beautiful Love" were evidently as old as our grandfathers. There's the beauty of jazz—even half-forgotten songs could be given new life. Mon also sang the Pampango folk ditty, "Ati Cu Pung Singsing."

By the time he said goodbye, Mon had totally captivated his audience. They didn't want to let him go.

Whereupon he launched into covers of "Nature Boy" and "Smile" (both popularized by Nat King Cole, the latter composed by Charlie Chaplin), which made the people glad they were there, oblivious to the rain that continued to fall. It was almost romantic.

Readers write up a storm—again

FEEDBACK

NUT nails it

From Elizabeth Aco-Agbulos (goldenlion88@yahoo.com). 320 Grand St. Alameda, CA:

Nestor U. Torre's unsolicited advice to Regine is correct. The first time I saw on TFC the trailer of the new movie starring Regine opposite Piolo Pascual, I told my sister, "She's too old for him." Also, the recent revelation of Ogie Alcasid—why Michelle left him—made me mad at Regine. She has denied the romance a million times, and now she has the guts to marry Ogie? Home-breaker! Time for her to reflect and make amends.

Dissenting opinion

From Carlo Quidlat (bluetaunus@yahoo.com) 4606 N. Hermitage Ave., Chicago, Il:

I've always made it a point to start my morning by reading the Inquirer's online edition, especially the show biz section, as it somehow makes me feel closer to home (I've been in Chicago for more than 10 years). However, I recently came across Nestor Torre's column, "Viewfinder" and was shocked that such chauvinistic and unfounded views are being allowed to get published. I refer to "Unsolicited Advice To ABC 5, Sharon and Regine." First of all, saying that an actress needs to lose weight to be effective onscreen and that an actress cannot have a younger leading man only proves that he's a blatant personification of the Filipino male's famous double standard. How dare! Physical appearance has never been a factor in effective portrayals. Kathy Bates has landed many lead roles and she's no Uma Thurman. Demi Moore has Ashton, Cameron Diaz had Justin Timberlake, just to name a few. Regine still looks young. And for Nestor to even mention "surgical intervention" just to make his point only adds insult to injury. Granted that he could prove Regine had undergone plastic surgery, that's not his business. Besides, Regine and Piolo do look so good together that age should be a non-issue. It's the chemistry that matters. It seems Nestor has a double standard when it comes to Pinoy actors. He has never criticized overweight Hollywood actors.

Just another scam

From Gines Citones (ginescitones@hotmail.com), Pacific Palisades, CA:

On the Ruffa-Yilmaz splitup: It is obvious this is all coming from Ruffa/Annabelle's side. Are media men so gullible as to swallow—hook, line and sinker—whatever these two (expletive) feeds them? This is another Ruffa/Annabelle scam. Haven't we all had enough of their *pakulo*? I believe they have been separated for quite a while now, and not just this year. What makes it nauseating is the way they make Ruffa appear like Princess Diana! Smell the coffee, people, and wake up! You have better things to publish than the fantasies of a fallen starlet and her mother, and their collective scams. Yilmaz is a small time-hood. Ruffa lives in a fantasy land woven by her fairy mother.

Not above criticism

From "A" (pilot5855@yahoo.com), US:

For Ms Dolly Ann Carvajal: I couldn't be more thankful that there are people like you left in the media. I believe the foremost job of media people is to inform, investigate, analyze, and ascertain the truth, friendships and acquaintances aside. Your efforts at investigating Ruffa is commendable! People are often drawn to lives presented as fantastic and glamorous; it is up to the media to show that, when wealthy people deceive us, they are not above public criticism. Filipinos are very forgiving and caring. Only those who are honest and humble deserve the people's sympathy.

I have many friends in Turkey, and they know the Bektas family through the news. I beg you, continue to probe all the things that Ruffa claims about her life. Battered wife? She's not afraid of Yilmaz *at all*. Ruffa says he's a good father? It's unimaginable that a good father could be a battering husband. Filipinos have been nothing but forgiving of her. It's time to investigate the things she is saying. Keep it up.

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1 MR. BEAN
MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00
5:20, 7:40, 10:00

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP)
12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00

3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30
5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 SHREK 3 (GP)
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30
PIRATES 3 (GP)
8:30

PREMIERE THEATRE
ZODIAC (R-13)
12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

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PAANO KITA IIBIGIN PG13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10	SHREK 3 G 12:10,2:15,4:20, 6:25,8:30	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 12:00,3:20,6:40,10:00

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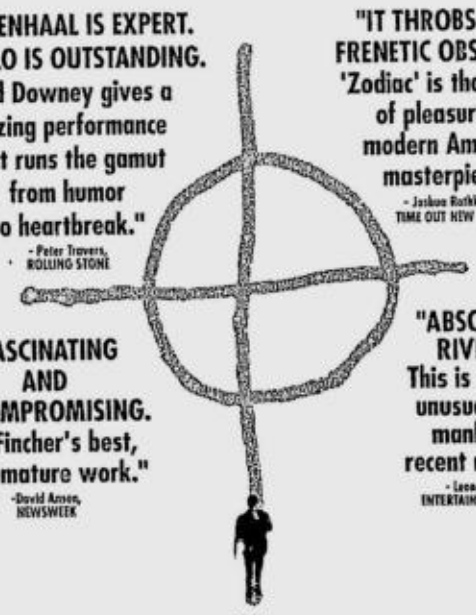

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7 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
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3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LUCKY YOU / SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
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4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PREMONITION
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 PUKYOTAN
3 LAST MIMZY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 OBSESSION
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 NAGDADALAGA
5 PREMONITION

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SATANICA
2 FIREHOUSE DOG
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007 H1

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

1. The Commission on Audit intends to apply the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Two Pesos (P3,673,632.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the Acquisition of Information Technology Equipment, enumerated as follows:

Item No.	Item Description	Quantity
1.	Desktop Computer with CD-ROM (branded)	58 sets
2.	Printer, Inkjet/Deskjet (branded)	8 units
3.	Printer, Laserjet, Black (branded)	1 unit
4.	Printer, Laserjet, Colored (branded)	3 units
5.	Printer, Laserjet, Network (branded)	5 units
6.	Scanner	3 units
7.	UPS with Built-In AVR	4 units
Total ABC = P3,673,632.00		

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting June 6 to July 2, 2007, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Seven Thousand Pesos (P7,000.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Director Mila R. Peñas, Procurement Division, COA Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.
3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 18, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor, former SAADO Building, COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.
4. Deadline for the submission of Bids shall be on July 3, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor former SAADO Building, COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
5. The Bids and Awards Committee of the Commission on Audit reserves the right to reject any Bid, to annull the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ARCADIO B. CUENCO, JR.**
Assistant Commissioner
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 3, 2007)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
(Republic of the Philippines)
TANGGAPAN NG PANGULO
(Office of the President)
TANGGAPAN NG SWEEPSTAKES
PANGKAWANGGAWA NG PILIPINAS
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C., Philippines
P.O. Box 141

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) is inviting interested individuals and entities to submit proposals for the supply of Small Town Lottery (STL) game management system and the appropriate mobile point-of-sale (POS) devices/handheld terminals that may be used to maximize sales collection and remittance and to ensure transparency in the PCSO STL Project in an experimental basis.

The proponent/s should be willing to implement a live proof of the concept in actual operation situation in partnership with the PCSO and its designated authorized STL agent-corporations in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

All proposals must be addressed and submitted to the Office of the General Manager, at the 3rd Floor, Main Building, PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, 1102 Quezon City, on or before June 29, 2007, 12:00 noon.

Inquiries may be addressed to the Technical Working Group, Special Projects Department (SPD) at telephone numbers: 781-9876 and 7493378.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO C. URIARTE
PCSO General Manager

(PDI – June 1, 2 & 3, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL
3rd Floor Building 12, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel/Fax no. (632) 7430512, 3386440,
Trunkline: 743-8301 loc. 2254, 2256, 2257, 6000
E-mail: pnac-sec@pacific.net.com

The Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Philippines Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Projects

Call for Concept Proposals for the Prevention and Control of HIV and AIDS

All public and private organizations engaged/interested in health care initiatives to submit concept proposals in the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS.

The concept proposals must be consistent with the Global Fund Criteria for proposals for the 7th Round (www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply), the Department of Health's National Objectives for Health, the Philippine National AIDS Council's Philippines AIDS Medium Term Plan 4 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Organizations with proven record in the prevention initiatives of HIV and with experience working with the Department of Health and its local and international partners and with co-funding preferred.

Proposals shall focus on:

Goals:
1. Decreased prevalence of STI/AIDS among young people (15-24 years old)
2. Institutionalized capacity of the health and education sector from national, sub-national and local levels (government and non-government) to deliver STI and HIV prevention activities among the young people as a component of Adolescent Reproductive Health Program (15-24 years old)

Outcome:
1. Increased knowledge and practice of young people (15-24 years old) on STI and HIV prevention.
2. Delayed sexual debut of both in-school and out-of-school youth
3. Decreased STI prevalence among the vulnerable young people
4. Strengthened public-private collaboration for ARH services

Target Beneficiaries:
1. School-based young people (15-24 years old)
2. Vulnerable young people
3. Institutions leading/implementing ARHP

Submission requirements:
- Concept Proposal (Background, Rationale, Methodology, Sustainability and Health Systems Strengthening)
- Brief Organizational Profile
- Highlights of previous and on-going projects

Deadline for submission is on July 7, 2007.
Decision of the CCM would be final and selected groups will be informed after July 14, 2007.

Submit hard copy of the concept proposal to:
The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Secretariat
Infectious Disease Office
National Center for Disease Prevention and Control
Department of Health Bldg. 13, 3rd floor,
San Lazaro Compound, Manila or Email to:
ccmsecretariatphil@yahoo.com or **naspcp@yahoo.com**,
Tel. no. 743-8301 local 2350, 2352 or Telefax 743-8301 loc. 2350, 2352, Contact Persons: Dr. Mario Baquilod, Dr. Gerard Belimac.

(PDI - June 3 & 10, 2007)

Municipality of Tinglayan
Province of Kalinga

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: June 3, 2007
Contract No.: **SP-066-IN-01 to 04**
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction and Repair of School Buildings.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Tinglayan, Kalinga*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the:
   - ***Package 1:*** *Construction of 1 unit, 2-Classroom School Buildings each @ Barangay Bangad*
   - ***Package 2:*** *Construction of 1 unit, 3-Classrooms School Building (Library, Laboratory and Faculty Office) @ Tinglayan Central School*
   - ***Package 3:*** *Repair of 2 units, 2-Classroom each School Building @ Sumadel National High School*
   - ***Package 4:*** *Construction of 1 unit, 2-Classroom School Buildings each @ Barangay Bugnay*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***June 4-July 4, 2007 during working hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Municipal Treasury Office, Municipal Hall Building, Tinglayan, Kalinga,*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for each package*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy pesos (Php 37,170.00) for Package 1; Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty pesos (Php 48,740.00) for Package 2; Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Forty pesos (Php 50,340.00) for Package 3; and Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy pesos (Php 37,170.00) for Package 4*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee issued by the Commercial Bank or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the BAC Secretariat, Treasury Office, Municipal Building, Poblacion, Tinglayan, Kalinga on or before July 4, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is:
   - **Package 1:** *One Million Four Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three Pesos and 04/100 (Php 1,486,493.04)*
   - **Package 2:** *One Million Nine Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three Pesos and 12/100 (Php 1,949,323.12)*
   - **Package 3:** *Two Million Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One Pesos and 04/100 (Php 2,013,471.04)*
   - **Package 4:** *One Million Four Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three Pesos and 04/100 (Php 1,486,493.04)*
6. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***June 20, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.*** at the ***ground floor TAMPCO INN, Magsaysay, Tabuk, Kalinga.***

(Sgd.) ROBERTO A. CHULSI
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 3, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID
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(PDI - June 3, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment and Supplies
(Gen. Appropriations Act 2007 & Continuing Appropriation)

1. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, through the General Appropriations Act 2006 and Continuing Appropriations intends to apply the sum of ***Php 34,463,390.00*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment (P 7,071,917.50), and Supplies (P 27,391,472.50).*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid opening.
2. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment and Supplies.*** Delivery of the GOODS required is: ***for supplies 10 calendar days and for equipment 30-60 calendar days.*** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BAC Chairman, ***Luz R. Rosales*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***1:00 - 5:00 p.m.***
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address given below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Php 1,000.00 per category for supplies and Php 1,500.00 for equipment.*** The method of payment will be ***Cash.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***June 22, 2007 / 2:00 P.M. at GCGMH Audio Visual Room.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the ***GCGMH Audio Visual Room on or before 10:00 A.M. on the scheduled opening of bids*** per category. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash	One percent (1%)
2. GSIS Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2 %)

8. Bid opening shall be on the following schedules listed below at **10:00 A.M.** at **GCGMH Audio-Visual Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Date	Category
July 10, 2007	Medical Equipment
	Non-Medical Equipment
July 12, 2007	Laboratory Supplies
July 16, 2007	Drugs and Medicine Supplies
July 19, 2007	Medical / Surgical Supplies
July 24, 2007	Miscellaneous Supplies
	Housekeeping Supplies
	Dietary Supplies
	Engineering Supplies
July 25, 2007	Dental Supplies
	X-ray Supplies
	Office Supplies
	Medical Oxygen Supplies
	Linen Supplies

9. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL reservesthe right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
Luz R. Rosales, BAC Chairman
Dormitory Manager
Miguel Parras St., Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Tel. No. (038) 411-4868 / (038) 411-4869 / (038) 501-7531 loc. 242
Fax No. (038) 411-3181
E-mail address: gcgmh_bohol@yahoo.com.ph

(Sgd.) LUZ R. ROSALES
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – June 3 & 10, 2007)

PNOC
PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5288

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

40-Tonner High Bed Trailer and 60-Tonner Low-Bed Semi-Trailer under FDM 73514-5
Approved Budget: PHP 6,966,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Arvin Jose A. Gomez** starting **May 30, 2007** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **June 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) of June 27, 2007. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI - June 3, 2007)

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dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of building security services for DTI and its attached agencies for a period of sixteen (16) months, with an approved budget of Thirty million six hundred thousand pesos (Php 30,600,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 4 June 2007 until 5 P.M. of 18 June 2007 during office hours at the DTI-BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Maynard R. Peralta, with telephone number 751-5984, after paying a non-refundable fee of Ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 18 June 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 2 July 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 3, 2007)

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•Nat'l Hi-way Vacant lot 37,489m² Between Rotonda / Lourdes Church
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NOTICE IS GIVEN ON THE EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE HERMENEGILDO DEL ROSARIO TIONGSON BY HIS HEIRS UNDER DOC. NO. 288 PAGE59 BOOK NO. XIX SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC CYNTHIA G. RUIZ. (PDI-MAY27,JUNE3&10,2007)

Notice is given that the estate share of stock of PERFECTO GUIRAO was extrajudicially settled with self adjudication by sole heir as per Doc. No. 36 Page 1 Book I Series of 2007 before notary public Angel Valero of Makati City (PDI-May 27,June 3&10, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION STOCKS CERTIFICATE NO 01621130 99564079 97461433 96351774 95258557 95220035 FOR 569 SHARES ISSUED TO ROWENA AGUILA WAS REPORTED LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI-JUNE 3,10&17, 2007)

PROJECTOR 4rent 800/day 09195058551 ; 4344353

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on JUN 12, 2007, TUE. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, JAN 13- FEB. 12, 2006 SONS of J LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI - JUNE 03, 2007)

MARA PAWNSHOP I, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on JUN. 12, 2007 TUE. at 10:30, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively JAN 13-FEB.12 2007.Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer (PDI - JUNE 03, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late PACITA FUENTES was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc#457 Page#93 Book#XW Series of 2007 under Notary Public Reynaldo R. Bernardo of Rizal. (PDI-May 27, June 3 & 10, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JACINTO CO and late FELIZA T. CO covered by TCT #'s 17821,17820,367151,RT-49991 has been extrajudicially settled by thier heirs as per Doc #s 51 & 52 Page 12 Book XIV Series of 2007 before Notary Public Gervacio B. Ortiz,Jr. of Makati City. (PDI-June 3,10 & 17,2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ANGELA MARIA NIEVA WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY AND AMONG HER SURVIVING HEIRS BEFORE ATTY. CAMILO B. CABERO JR. NOTARY PUBLIC FOR AND IN THE CITY OF MANILA UNDER DOC. NO. 188; PAGE NO. 38; SERIES OF 2007 PDI-May 27 June 3 & 10, 2007

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Philippine National Bank stock certificate with Serial No. 007428 for 1,000 shares issued to FELIX ZEPEDA was reported lost.If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. (PDI-June 3,10 & 17,2007)

Notice is hereby given that Makati Sports Club Stock Certificate No. 1758 in the name of Life Properties,Inc. is lost,as per Doc. 157 Book No. III,Seris of 2007 of Notary Public Atty. Larry Andal, Manila,Philippines May 20 ,27 June 3,2007

Notice is hereby given that ARELLANO UNIVERSITY Orig Stock Cert # 3722 # Of Shrs 20, 3895 -22, 4043-6 in favor of MANUEL / LOURDES LAGMAN were lost. If no contest received New Cert will be Issued. (PDI-June 3, 10, 17 2007)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the Official Receipt booklet belonging to Bayer CropScience, Inc., with series numbers 1451 to 1500 was lost in Baguio City last April 2007. The unused numbers of this booklet are from 1455 to 1500. Notice is being given to the public that any business transaction utilizing the above unused series or receipts will not be honored by Bayer CropScience, Inc. (PDI-June 3, 2007)

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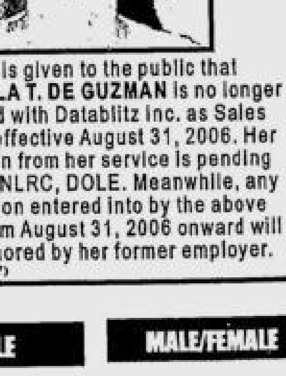
(Say this prayer every hour, nine times a day for nine consecutive days and publish)
– Eleanor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARY BABY L. CARDENAS
has been convicted by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 16, Zamboanga City in the case entitled ***"People of the Philippines vs. Mary Baby L. Cardenas"*** and docketed as Criminal Case Nos. 22245, 22246 and 22247.
A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her arrest. For any information as to her whereabouts, please call the:
Legal and Collection Department ALLIED BANKING CORPORATION Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City at Tel. Nos. (632) 816-0902; (632) 810-2379 (632) 816-3311 to 99 local 544
Any information provided shall be treated with strict confidentiality.
(PDI–May 20, 25 & June 3, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that
ANTHONY JULIUS V. AYAT
ceased to be connected with
SEABOARD-EASTERN INSURANCE CO. INC.
effective May 30, 2007.
Any transaction or business entered into by such individual from above date will NOT be honored by the Company.
(PDI--June 3, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is given to the public that Ms. **SHIELA T. DE GUZMAN** is no longer connected with Datablitz Inc. as Sales Assistant effective August 31, 2006. Her termination from her service is pending before the NLRC, DOLE. Meanwhile, any transaction entered into by the above person from August 31, 2006 onward will not be honored by her former employer.
(PDI-June 3, 2007)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Jennelyn S. Navarro

Maria Cecilia S. Navarro

Be informed that the employees whose pictures appear herein, MS. JENNELYN SOLANO NAVARRO (SSS # 33-5501349) and MS. MARIA CECILIA SOLANO NAVARRO (SSS # 33-16238097) last known address at # 2443 M. Roxas St., Sta. Ana, Manila are no longer connected with Asian GEM & Tourism Foundation, Inc. Any transaction entered into by subject individuals after April 30, 2007 and after May 18, 2007 respectively shall not be honored.

(PDI--June 3, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ARNOLD M. PAPA

VINCENT M. PAPA

Notice is hereby given to the public that the above persons, ARNOLD M. PAPA and VINCENT M. PAPA are **no longer connected as sales agents of MC Newcoast Villatel Corp;** and therefore, they are not authorized to market and sell Balaihara Resort Villatel, Boracay Island, effective May 2007.

Any transaction entered into by these persons on or after the said date shall not be honored by MC Newcoast Villatel Corp.

MC NEWCOAST RESORT VILLATEL CORPORATION.
TELEPHONE NO: 815-4759 LOCAL 109

(PDI--June 3, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office:
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-14-34
Tel. Nos. 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail:clc@i-manila.com.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **CATHAY INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.** has voluntarily ceased from issuing new and renewal policies effective September 30, 2006. In relation thereto, the Insurance Commission appointed **Mr. Alex R. Gonzales** as Conservator effective December 18, 2006.

Parties having claim against the company are hereby notified to file their claims under oath with the Conservator not later than June 30, 2007, together with all supporting documents and/or relevant proofs detailing the character, basis and amount of each and every claim, directly with the appointed Conservator either personally or by mail at the company's business address at 10th Floor, Tytana Plaza Bldg., Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila for consideration in its eventual liquidation pursuant to pertinent provisions of the Insurance Code, as amended. CLAIMS FILED AFTER JUNE 30, 2007 SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINING ASSETS IF ANY, AFTER SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS SUBMITTED WITHIN THE DEADLINE.

(Sgd.) **EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI--June 3, 2007)

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Independence eve musical gala at the CCP

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) and Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) celebrate the country's 109th year independence with a light-hearted and poignant musical gala on the best Filipino traits, things, traditions and places slated on June 11, 8 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater).

Billed as *Kalayaan 2007: Bayan, Bayani, Bayanihan*, the musical extravaganza, which exemplifies the Filipino's brand of nationalism, heroism and community spirit, kicks off with comic chameleon Michael V. setting the tone of the evening in a countdown of the "100 Best Things About Being Filipino". Jazz artists Bituin Escalante and Mon David whip up a medley of songs like *Penoy Balut, Mamang Sorbetero, Kalesa* and *Saranggola ni Pepe* in *"Balut!Penoy.....Baluuut!"*. The Philippine Madrigal Singers dish out a melodious tune on local favorite cuisine, *pinakbet* in *"Pongpong Ginapong"*, with a video montage of Filipinos' attempts to establish world records on the longest (*longganiza, bangus* grill) and the largest (*palabok*, strawberry shortcakes) and other feats. A ubiquitous " *Balikbayan Da Box*" tells the story of things sent home by Filipinos abroad in a medley of OPM songs by Filipino Americans, Filipino Canadians and other 'hyphenated' Filipino entertainers. *"Para sa Iyo...Sing-A-Long"* calls on Manny Pacquiao for a duet with the audience in a sing-a-long of the run-away hit single of the boxing champ. Opera singers Rachelle Gerodias and Nolyn Cabahug lead a children's choir in a medley of historical kundimans in " *Bayan Ko*". Alden Lugnasin's meditation on swimming juxtaposed with the underwater videography of the Tubbattaha reefs is set by Ballet Philippines in "Swimming the Ilog Pasig". From historical heroes (Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Gabriela Silang) to comic heroes (*Darna, ZsaZsa Zaturnnah, Lastikman, Mulawin*) blend with modern day grassroots heroes like Gawad Kalinga founder Antonio Meloto and Josette Biyo (a public school teacher internationally recognized for her work in science education), Filipino heroism takes form in *"Ikaw ang Superhero ng Buhay Ko"*.

The production, which features state-of-the art technology through a live internet feed, also sees the Philippine Madrigal Singers sing "Bahay Kubo" from Berlin, Germany. Botong Francisco's mural *"Bayanihan"* becomes a three dimensional portrait as street dance companies collaborate to re-enact the great Filipino trait. For the grand finale, the country's national anthem, " *Lupang Hinirang*" will be sung simultaneously by choirs in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Bicol, Davao, Malolos and Berlin with choirs assembled at the CCP Main Theater stage through a live feed.

Kalayaan 2007: Bayan, Bayani, Bayanihan is directed by CCP's Chris Millado, set designed by Ricardo Eric Cruz, with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Josefino "Chino" Toledo.

OPENING SALVO (all artist performing) of Hinabing Gunita.

STREET FESTIVAL DANCERS perform at CCP ramp for Independence Day celebration.

Fun concert for babies

THE CULTURAL CENter of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Metro Manila Community Orchestra presents "Cradle Music: Symphony for Babes and Babies" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) on Sunday, July 1 at 3 pm. The Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO), under the musical direction of Maestro Josefino Chino Toledo, performs light classics specially programmed to appeal to young listeners and their guardians. Ventriloquist Kuya Ony (Ony Carcamo), Dingdong, the baby gorilla puppet, and actors from Tanghalang Pilipino interact with audience members as they introduce the parts of the orchestra, the composers and concert-going etiquette.

This fun-filled one hour family treat performs Bizet's Carmen Suite's Prelude, Copland's Prairie Night and Celebration Dance from "Billy the Kid", Kasilag's Lullaby from "Philippine Scenes", Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Mirlitons and March of the Toy Soldiers from "Nutcracker Suite", Stravinsky's Circus Polka, Gershwin's Promenade, Anderson's A Trumpeter's Lullaby and Syncopated Clock, and Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals.

METRO Manila Community Orchestra

This innovative concert taps into established research findings on the benefits of classical music to child instruction and emotional development. While the child is still in the mother's womb, classical music stimulates the baby's brain development; balances the mind, heart and body; calms, soothes and lulls the baby to sleep, researches have shown. Early listening exposure to classical music develops and substantially contributes to the child's emotional intelligence and social skills.

Ticket prices are at P700, P500, P350 and P200. Children below 12 months old are free of charge. Children from 13 months to 4 years old are entitled to 50% discount. Students are entitled to 50% discount while senior citizens are entitled to 20% discount. Children under 6 years of age must be accompanied by a guardian. For more information, ticket inquiries, family packages and block sale buyers, please call the CCP Marketing Department at 832-3704.

OBITUARIES

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
Romans 14:8

Evelina 'Ling' Ignacio Cruz

Marilao, Bulacan

former President, **PAPA (Parents of Priests Association)** and **SCA (Senior Citizen Association, Marilao)**

returned to the bosom of her Creator on June 1, 2007

*surrounded by her loving family, husband **Pany**, children **Dra. Alice, Fr. Manny** and **Baby**, grandchildren **Patrick, Stephen, Michael** and **Sam**, siblings **Seni, Honor, Claire** and **Cora**, and sisters-in-law **Amalia, Naty** and **Virgie**.*

Her remains lie in state at #84 Zulueta St., Poblacion, Marilao, Bulacan. Interment will be on Monday, June 4 at the Marilao Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Concelebrated Mass at the St. Michael the Archangel Parish Church.

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

QUERUBIN OCAMPO VILLARRUZ

of Ivisan Capiz & Marikina City

Born: December 2, 1924 - Died: May 31, 2007

His bereaved family wife: **Norma Bolasco-Villarruz**; children: **Alfonso** (†), **Ma. Flor, Febes & Gabriel Delfin, Estrella & Alexon Aguilan**; grandchildren: **Steph, Ryan**, and **Rye Delfin, M.A. Aguilan**; brothers & sisters **Romula & Orlando Andrada, Bibit** (†) and **Cynthia Villarruz, William & Mildred, Fely & Mario Tuaño, Vickie & Barry Raymond, Lily & Moloy Seraspe**; nephews & nieces: **May & Dave, Roland & Naty, Lizanie, Roy, Rex & Salvador, Miriam & Jorge, Wilfred & Pia, Maris, Claro & Elvie, Pong, Jet & Weng, Maritess & Sen**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment today, June 3, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Message of Thanks

Her beloved husband, **Atty. Pacifico Dulay Pe Benito**; son **Chito**; daughter **Grace** and son-in-law **Jojo Degollado**; grandchildren **Jennica, Anjo** and **Trisha**; relatives and friends of the late

MRS. FLORAFINA CAMPOS PE BENITO

of Paoay, Ilocos Norte and Quezon City who peacefully joined our Creator last May 19, 2007 at the age of 84

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and mass cards, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, were present at the Novena masses, necrological mass, funeral rites and who in various ways gave comfort to the family.

Death Notice

TERESA FUSTER MURILLO VDA. DE JESUS

May 31, 2007

Her remains lie in state at Garden Suite of Loyola Memorial Chapel Guadalupe Makati.

Interment today, June 3, 2007 after the 9am Mass at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina City

we design OBITUARIES for free

DELIA RIANZARES vda. de CUETO

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 01, 2007 at the age of 94.

Her children **Melody, Mila, Solly, Alice & Danny** (†); sons-in-law **Romy, Edgar** (†), **Nelson, Bert** and daughter-in-law **Violy**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City on Tuesday, June 05, 2007 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Engr. Rommel Tadeo Casin

who peacefully passed into the loving arms of the Lord on March 6, 2007

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

The Marketing Code, revealed

THE SECRETS TO MARKETING excellence have recently been revealed at the 38th National Marketing Conference held in Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Pasay City. With the revelation of the marketing code, Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the country's premiere marketing organization, made it possible for the participants to improve their marketing skills and create more means for growth to their respective companies and businesses.

This year's two-day national marketing conference cracked the key core marketing aspects and relevant trends that affect almost any business. With the knowledge shared by the country's most prominent professionals in the field, the conference has succeeded in inspiring marketers to present world-class innovations in their respective organizations' marketing strategies.

Publicis Manila's chair and chief executive officer Matec Villanueva inspired both budding and established marketing professionals to be bold enough to embrace an out-of-the-box concept and slightly set aside their "conservative" way of marketing. On the other hand, Brandlab's consumer anthropologist, Gayia Beyer, helped participants in "Understanding the Filipino Shopping Code in Metro Manila;" Nielsen Company's president for Asia-Pacific Bienvenido Niles Jr. shared his knowledge on "Understanding the Consumer Generated Media;" Philippine Daily Inquirer's executive vice president and chief operating officer David Valdez, gave his insights on "The power of print through convergence; Isobar Hongkong's licensing director for Asia Pacific Barney Loehnis, spoke about "Unlocking the Evolution and potentials of Digital Marketing;" and Samsung Philippines country manager Pen Roque, talked about their "Lessons learned on the road to becoming a global brand."

Since the organizers wanted the event to be informative and thrilling at the same time; PMA presented cutting edge activities and innovative topics that yielded a lively discussion on marketing trends. PMA also hyped the crowd and gave a lucky participant, not only the key to unlock the marketing code, but also the key to a brand new Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi.

Riding in on the popularity of the Da Vinci Code, the conference had kept its promise to be exciting, mysterious, and something that the attendees were able to relate to. Just when people had thought Dan Brown's the Da Vinci Code is one of the most interesting things that came out in the market; the national marketing conference made them realize that it is much more interesting and beneficial to find out about the market per se through PMA's successful "Da Marketing Code" conference..

UNILAB'S BIOMEDIS SUPPORTS YOUTH FOUNDATION

Biomedis, a division of Unilab, recently treated 45 kids from Tuloy Foundation Inc. to a special movie screening of Spiderman 3 at IMAX Theater in Mall of Asia. Tuloy Foundation is run by Salesian Fathers of Don Bosco and houses abused, abandoned, runaway and street children. Biomedis, through its anti-infective drug ceftraxone sodium, also pledged assistance to the foundation by supporting their various programs for the youth. With the boys are (from left, standing) Biomedis director and OIC-general manager Dante Sibug and product associate Froilan Llavore and Tuloy Foundation executive director Marciano 'Rocky' Evangelista, SDB (extreme right, standing).

THE BODY SHOP PARTNERS WITH DEPED

The Body Shop Philippines together with the Department of Education (DepEd) officials, represented by its company's chair Vicente N. Muñoz, DepEd Finance Undersecretary Teodosio C. Sangil, Jr and DepEd Undersecretary Ramon Bacani signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) last April 13, for the reconstruction, repair and rehabilitation of 'Reming' damaged school houses. The simple but memorable occasion, held at the Office of the Secretary-Conference Room within the DepEd complex, marked their partnership and firm commitment in the Bicol efforts. Shown are (from left): Karen Betita, corporate values officer, The Body Shop Philippines; Vicente Muñoz Sr., The Body Shop Philippines chair; Undersecretary Teodosio Sangil Jr., DepEd; Undersecretary Ramon Bacani, DepEd; and Adopt-A-School officer-in-charge Angelico Mercader.

PSC, PFPI BAG WORLDBEX '07 BEST BOOTH DESIGN

Puyat Steel Corp (PSC), the pioneer in the galvanizing industry, together with its sister company Puyat Flooring Products (PFPI) bag the Best Booth for Special Design during the 12th Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition held at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The 12th Worldbex is the biggest building and construction event in the country. Photo shows PSC marketing head Suzette Relucio, (sixth from left) receiving the award from Worldbex Services International founding chair Joseph L. Ang (second from left). Also in the photo were (from left): PSC senior marketing specialist Lirio Munsayac; Worldbex Services International co-founding chair Levy Ang; PFPI professional sales consultants Bong Malit and Yolly Rocha; PSC senior marketing specialist Pia Lamoste and PSC professional sales representatives Jessie Retamal and Glenn Echon.

SUN CELLULAR'S TRIPLE TREATS WINNERS

Sun Cellular's VP for CRM Reuben Pangan (left), AVP for prepaid marketing Joan Dueñas (3rd from left) and VP for admin and logistics Mel Ocampo (right) award the 3 Mazda sedans to the three winners of Sun's Triple Treats raffle promo. Ferdinand Tabayoyong, Aurora Jimenez and Jean Tabayoyong, all from Cabanatuan City, each brought home a brand new Mazda 3 sedan tax-free for winning in the Sun Triple Treats Prize Overload raffle promo.

China Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition at WTCMM

IN CELEBRATION OF CHINA'S 32nd year of diplomatic relationship with the Philippines, the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products (CCCME) mounts the China Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition from June 7 to 9 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

Sponsored by China's Ministry of Commerce, this exhibition is the Philippines' only annual event that showcases the latest in Chinese electronic products and machinery, making it a must-see fair for everyone. The show brings together close to 120 Chinese companies offering products such as automobile, motorcycles, auto parts, building materials, home appliances, and high-tech equipment and machines for agriculture, environmental protection, metal processing, food packaging, farming, and communication, among many others.

Now on its third edition, the China Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition continues to be an ideal meeting place for buyers and sellers from the industrial and consumer products sectors, and a venue for strengthening their manufacturing and marketing capabilities.

In 2006, the event attracted over 20,000 buyers from all over the country, and generated total sales and business transactions of over $50 million. This year, CCCME expects this to increase by at least 50 percent.

The long history of friendship and partnership between the Philippines and China has resulted in a mutually beneficial relationship that has spurred the growth of trade and industry of both countries. The bilateral trade between China and the Philippines grows at an average rate of 41.39 percent annually, amounting to $6.97 billion in 2005. Philippine exports to China reached $4.6 billion in 2006 ($3.8 went to electronics and $90 million to machinery, transport equipment, apparatus and parts), making China the Philippines' third largest trading partner and export market, and the fifth largest supplier of imports, such as textiles, industrial machines, and resource-based products.

The China Machinery and Electronic Products Expo is a clear indication of the flourishing trade relationship between China and the Philippines. "We hope that this event will further improve trade between the two countries, and foster strong friendships between Chinese and Filipinos," says Yao Wenping, vice president of CCCME who will again lead this year's Chinese delegation together with Chinese Ambassador Li Jinjun.

Business-to-business networking opportunities and business meetings with various government agencies and local companies are being scheduled as part of the activities related to the exhibition and is being arranged in cooperation with CCCME's local counterpart, the Federation of Electrical and Electronic Suppliers and Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc (Pessa). By arranging such activities, CCCME hopes that this will facilitate better matching of needs and spur more business transactions between China and the Philippines.

The China Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition is being managed by Global-Link Marketing and Management Services Inc. For more information, call 750-8588 or e-mail info@globallinkph.com.

NEW BATCH OF INT'L LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Spa Professionals International Development Center is proud to announce a 100 percent passing rate of its second batch of the international Cibtac therapist licensing course held last January to April. Cibtac (Confederation of International Beauty Therapists & Cosmetologists) is a UK Based Examination Board renowned for its strict standards of quality control. Cibtac license holders are greatly sought after to work as therapists anywhere in the world. Spa Professionals is located near the Sucat interchange along the South Superhighway and can be contacted at www.spaprofessionals.net, e-mail info@spaprofessionals.net or telephone +632-838-2170/2167. Shown are, (sitting from left): Maritess Aringo, Cibtac examiner Davika Patel, Spa Professionals Cibtac trainer Beng Celedio; (standing from left): Spa Professionals president Catherine Brillantes-Turvill, Marilyn Silva, Catherine Cuesta, Carl de la Vina and Dr. Rhaychelle Natividad, Judith Joseph and Marjorie Lopingco.

PLDT HOSTS TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

PLDT Business Solutions recently hosted a technology update for the Araneta Group on various PLDT ICT Solutions at PLDT Innolab. The Araneta Group is a diversified group of companies anchored on food, leisure, and property development. Shown in photo are, first row, from left: Jay Lagdameo, PLDT corporate sales business head; Joe Fores, Araneta Group vice president for the IT department; and Nikk Encarnacion, PLDT senior relationship manager. Second row, from left: Gary Ignacio, PLDT product manager; Jun Darjuan, PLDT product manager; John Castelo, Araneta Group vice president of business development; and Rommel Torres, Araneta Group manager of business development. Third row, from left: Jun Sumera, PLDT capability management specialist; and Kit Lanzanas, Araneta Group special projects officer.

JOLAS: PAYBACK TIME

Jojo Lastimosa or Jolas, is currently the Alaska Basketball Camp director, a task he takes really seriously. For Jolas, it is payback time as he shares his passion and skills with possibly the future basketball stars of the Philippines. Jolas' dream is to bring the camp to more provinces nationwide. He has successfully facilitated an Alaska Basketball Camp in his hometown Cagayan De Oro, the first on his payback list. Whether the camp players go on to become professional basketball players or not, Jolas hopes that the summer camp will leave them with values that will lead them to success in whatever they pursue in the future. For more information on the Alaska Power Camp, you may call 840-4500.

UCPB INKS MOA WITH DEPED

UCPB continue to expand its assistance program to small coconut farmer communities, inking recently an agreement with Department of Education (DepEd) to undertake the repair and rehabilitation of damaged public schools in coconut growing areas. UCPB president and CEO Jose Querubin and Education Secretary Jesli Lapus (4th and 5th from left) signed the memorandum of agreement. Under this new 'UCPB: Kabalikat sa Edukasyon' project, the bank is earmarking P1.6 million for three schools in Legaspi City. The MOA signing was witnessed by (from left): UCPB-CIIF Foundation program head Neurita Chan, UCPB-CIIF president Edgardo Amistad, UCPB director and Corporate Social Responsibility committee chair Rosalinda Casiguran, DepEd undersecretary Franklin Sunga, DepEd deputy chief of staff Mari Paul Soriano and DepEd consultant for administration and finance Merlie Asprer.

BTS Clips

Xando sponsors MR2 On-line

XANDO BLOCK AND BURN TABLETS WILL BE presenting an upcoming concert entitled "MR2…On Line" on June 15 and 16, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum featuring the riotous tandem of Mitch Valdez and Rico Puno. Xando is the revolutionary dietary tablet that lets you slim down and keep in shape. It works by blocking carbohydrates, starch, sugar and fat to prevent fat buildup and promote burning of fat. MR2…On Line is a production venture of Frontrows Entertainment Inc. Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets (891-9999) Music Museum (721-6726) or call 365-3374/724-6954/0918-9135585/0915-2585488. Ticket Prices are at P1,900, P1500 and P900. Music Museum is located at Greenhills Shopping Center Complex, Greenhills, San Juan.

BLSS Gathering of Champions

BERT LOZADA SWIM SCHOOL'S SUMMER ENDING EXTRAVAGANZA DUBBED as "BLSS Gathering of Champions!" will be on June 9, at SM Megamall Cinema 9. Participants will be receiving a special diploma created by our country's National Artist for Visual Arts Arturo Luz. The event is supported by Gain School, Mossimo and Speedo. To join the event, call 563-5532/589-1982/5628041 for details.

ECS unveils new products at Computex

ELITEGROUP COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC (ECS), THE WORLD'S LEADING motherboard, VGA, desktop, notebook and PMP manufacturer, currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, is pleased to announce that it will be displaying all of its latest solutions at Computex this year as well as offering visitors first-look information for previously unseen products from its new product roadmap. ECS will showcase its latest motherboards, and will be unveiling new stylish and sleek multimedia notebook and desktop computer designs. Visitors will also be privy to information on ECS' new portable multimedia audio/video players and home entertainment products. The ECS booth will be located at Hall 4 (TICC), Booth T3F2. The conference will take place on June 5. For more information about the show, or any ECS products, please check the website at www.ecs.com.tw.

The Silver Surfer has landed!

20TH CENTURY FOX INTRODUCES ANOTHER FIRST AS IT BRINGS TO THE Philippines the 3-dimensional theatrical standee of the skyboarding Silver Surfer from the upcoming event movie "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer." A truly impressive marketing tool, the larger than life standee is 133 inches tall and is 78 inches wide with the statue of the Silver Surfer and his board sculpted from hard, durable fiberglass-resin coated with a metallic chrome gloss. "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" opens June 13 in theaters nationwide from 20th Century Fox to be distributed by Warner Bros.

ASUS LAUNCHES NEW LINE UP OF LAPTOPS

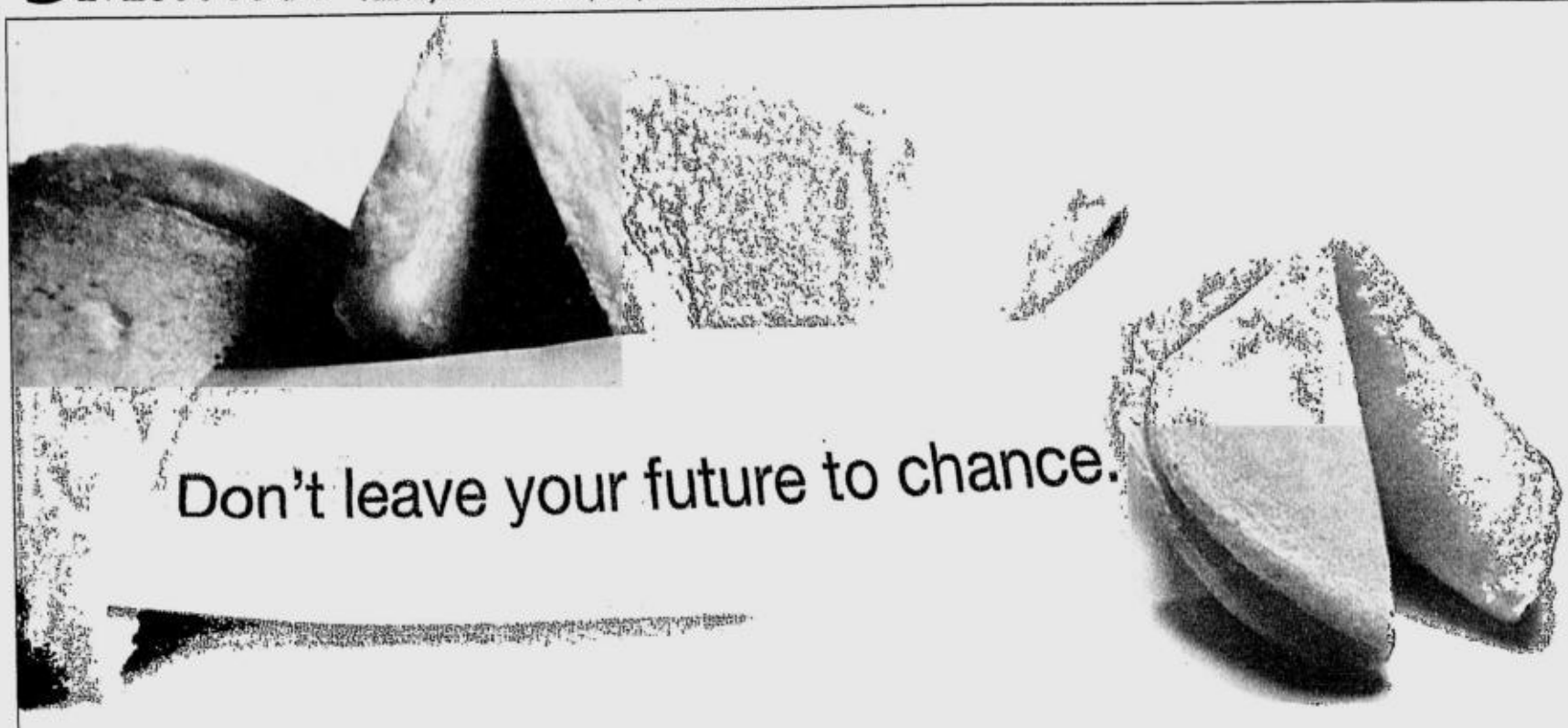
Asus, one of the world's leading notebook computer brands recently unveiled their powerful and stylish new line up of laptops. These were the ultra-portable U1F, the thin and light W5FE, the handsome Lamborghini VX2, and the powerful gaming consoles in the forms of the G1 and G2. Asus Philippines, led by marketing manager nina dandan and sales manager Peter Chua highlighted all the impressive new features of the new models from the famous computer brand to an enthusiastic audience in a smartly decorated setting at the uber-vogue M Café at Ayala Center, Makati. The launch was graced by Darwin Wu from Asus Taiwan. The exciting new models from Asus will available at leading computer stores nationwide.

TOAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2007-2008

The newly elected Trust Officers Association of the Philippines (Toap) Board of Directors for 2007-2008 poses with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor after he inducted them into office during a Hawaiian inspired Toap General Membership Meeting held recently at the Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City. Shown are (from left): are director for special events Ma. Teresa R. Toledo, VP and trust officer of HSBC; Toap president Ma. Lourdes T. de Vera, SVP of BDO; treasurer and director for finance Marvin V. Fausto, SVP and trust officer of Equi-PCIB; BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.; Toap vice president and director for legal and regulatory affairs Ma. Theresa M. Javier, VP of BPI; director for information and publication Lourdes M. Ferrer, FVP and trust officer of RCBC; corporate secretary Eduardo B. Chaves, VP and trust officer of Land Bank; director for membership Raul C. Diaz, FVP and trust officer of PBCom. Not in photo are director for ways and means Irene A. Diomampo, VP and trust officer of ING Bank and director for arbitration, ethics and education Michael B. Garcia, FVP and trust officer of Union Bank.

TORM SHIPPING OPENS HEADQUARTERS IN MAKATI

Torm Shipping Phils Inc, one of the leading employers of Filipino seafarers, formally inaugurated last April 16, its own office building in Palanan, Makati City. This event is seen as the company's long-term commitment to the development of the country's seafaring sector. For almost 20 years now, Torm Shipping has continuously hired the services of Filipino officers and ratings, recognizing their competence and integrity in the profession. The company has been part of the TSM Group of shipping companies. Company executives and representatives from the different offices attended the inauguration of the new Manila office, underscoring the significance of the occasion. In Manila, Torm Shipping Phils is led by Capt. Alfonso del Castillo as its president and chief engineer Jose Melchor del Pilar as crewing manager.



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Pasay Office
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SM Central Business Park
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USA	3:00 PM	PhP 1,250	PhP 1,500

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ins-global @ i-manila.com.ph

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY
San Juan, Metro Manila
needs
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
of English, Math and Science
and
GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS

The applicant must be:
1. 21 to 30 years old
2. a BSE graduate for High School and a BEED graduate for Grade School
3. proficient in English

Bring credentials.

Apply at:
148 Jose Gil St. (the former Valenzuela St.), San Juan, Metro Manila

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RK FRANCHISE CONSULTANCY
Your Expert in The Franchise Business

the Franchising Expert needs

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT
Degree-holder, computer literate, speaks good English, results-oriented, willing to travel.

MARKETING ASSISTANT
Degree-holder, computer literate, speaks good English, Highly-motivated, results-oriented, Experience in marketing an advantage.

Bring your resumé personally at the G/F Minnesota Mansion, 267 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City
For details, call 912-2973 or 437-2120

HUMAN INTEGRATED RESOURCES EXPERTS, INC.
Unit C RCS Townhomes II, Buencamino St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel Nos. 8425401; 8425276; 8427371; 8425528
Email address: hireteams@globalines.com.ph

We are in urgent need of the following positions:

DATA ENCODERS - 4-yrs. Business/IT course graduate; male/female; 18-29 yrs. old; single; computer literate; with good communication skills; personable.

ADMIN ASSISTANT - Female; graduate of any 4-yr. business course; background in administrative work preferred; proficient in MS office; willing to be assigned in Parañaque City.

ACCOUNTING CLERK –Female; 21-27 yrs. old; college graduate; with background in Accounting

DRIVER – Male; Single; not more than 35 years old; with professional driver's license, average English communication skills; can communicate with foreigners.

ORACLE PROJECT MANAGER - BS CompSci, IT or equivalent degree; at least 5 yrs exp. in Oracle ERP Applications Support (Technical/Functional) & Systems Dev't Activities; At least 5 yrs. exp. in Business, Mfg, Planning, Operations and ERP systems; With 2 years Supervisory exp. and 5 yrs. of Systems Dev't exp. with good knowledge in SDLC; With good comm. skills and can work effectively in a global operations/ helpdesk set-up; can train end-users; With good knowledge of Database concepts, tools and methodologies and Info Mgmt

ORACLE PROGRAMMER - B.S. CompSci, IT, Computer Eng'g or equivalent degree; 2 yrs. exp. of systems dev't or application support exp. in Oracle environment; Familiar with Oracle Database concepts and tools; proficient in Oracle PL/SQL, Forms 6i and Reports 6i, Oracle Discoverer & Unix Shell scripting; strong knowledge of mfg, distribution or financial business processes; Willing to be trained on various Oracle Applications support.

AUDITOR - Candidate must possess a CPA license. Preference will be given to Certified Internal Auditors or Certified Information Systems Auditors, MBA/MS IT degree holders and those with experience in auditing ERP (Oracle); Experience in an Internal Audit position in a public accounting firm; Sound knowledge in information technology and primarily in operating systems and computer applications; 5 yrs exp in the mfg. or related industry in a financial and/or IT position with hands on exp on SOX 404. This would include process mapping, risk assessment, testing of controls; Extensive international travel required

SYSTEMS CONSULTANT – Pref. single; Male/Female; 22-28 yrs. old; Mktg, Business Mgmt., IT, or any related course graduate from a top rated school; At least one year IT selling experience required; Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City; Willing to travel

Qualified candidates may apply personally at our office or send their resume thru email.

WANTED

TELERECRUITER

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Collaborate with recruiting and marketing personnel to generate prospective candidates and other sources of candidate referrals through internet databases and outbound calling campaigns;
- Communicate in healthcare professional discussion forums and chat rooms
- Answer inbound calls and emails;
- Receive and respond to incoming candidate inquires from advertising campaigns and website applications;
- Enter candidate data into CRM system and/or proprietary database (SAMi);
- Coordinate activities with US and UK recruiters and US Fulfillment personnel;
- Collect applications and documents from candidates and follow-up on collection activities of the US and the UK;
- Follow-up with candidates to ensure completion of requirements for U.S. practice

QUALIFICATIONS

- 4 Year degree and/or possess relevant experience;
- Proficient technology skills using MS Office, Internet and Email required, and
- Contact management software (e.g., Goldmine, ACT) experience preferred;
- Previous staffing, recruiting or sales experience preferred;
- Previous Customer Service or healthcare experience preferred;
- UK or US accent and idiom training preferred

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Must be energetic, highly motivated, and able to work in a fast-paced environment;
- Must be organized, detail-oriented and able to efficiently handle multiple tasks;
- Must demonstrate ability to work well and effectively with others;
- Must have excellent phone and communication skills
- Must accomplish goals though use of the Company's process and IT systems;
- Must have excellent troubleshooting skills

Interested applicants may bring or mail resume and transcript of records to Unit 1803-1805 Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City or email resume to gsa.candidates@globalscholarship.org.

Salary and Benefits Package ranges from P25K to 30K/month!

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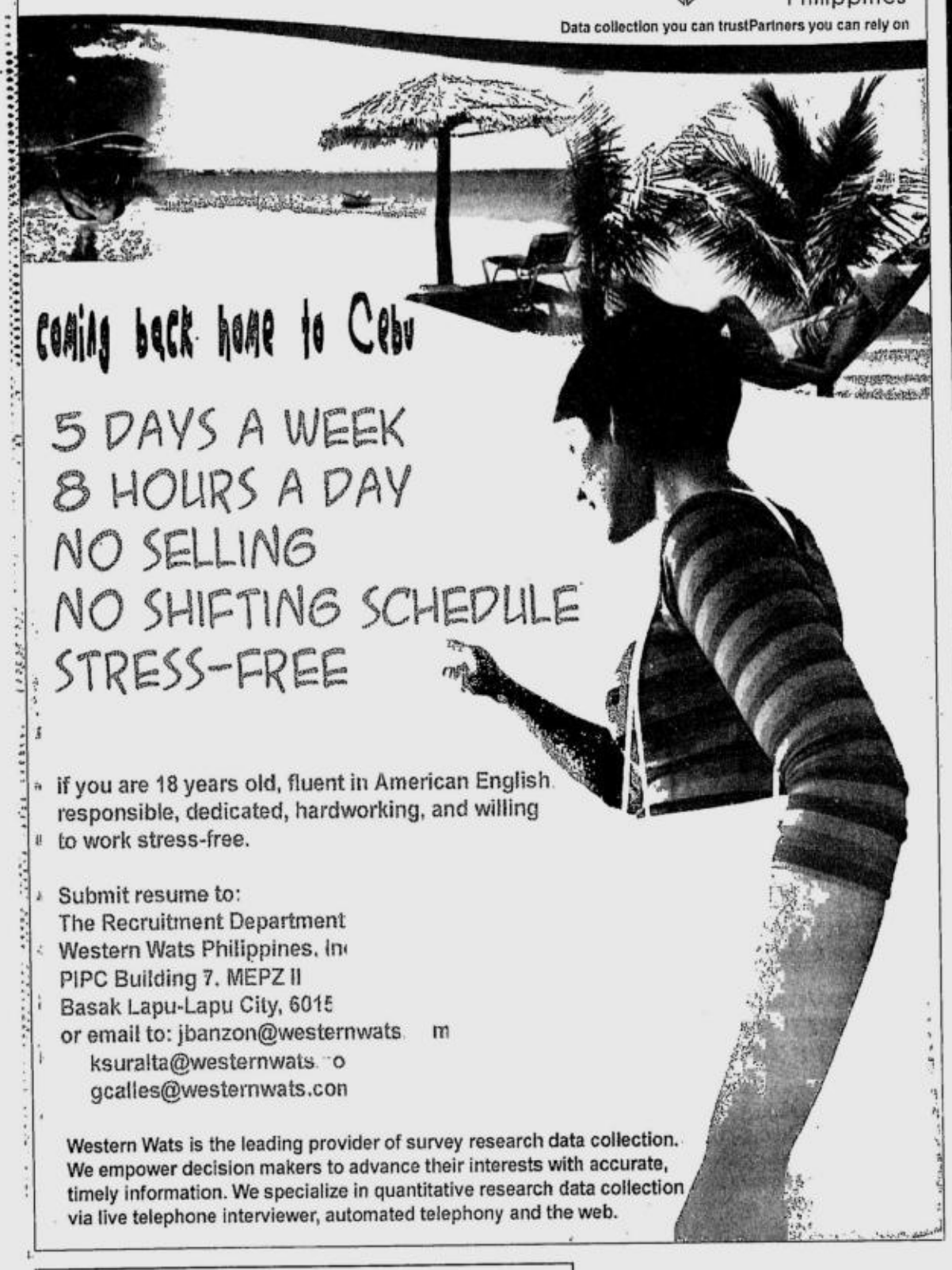

- if you are 18 years old, fluent in American English, responsible, dedicated, hardworking, and willing to work stress-free.

- Submit resume to:
  The Recruitment Department
  Western Wats Philippines, In
  PIPC Building 7, MEPZ II
  Basak Lapu-Lapu City, 6015
  or email to: jbanzon@westernwats m
  ksuralta@westernwats o
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Western Wats is the leading provider of survey research data collection. We empower decision makers to advance their interests with accurate, timely information. We specialize in quantitative research data collection via live telephone interviewer, automated telephony and the web.

THE WORLD BANK
Requires a
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for **top caliber Program Assistant** to provide efficient and high-quality secretarial and administrative support services in the area of Human Resources (HR). This position will be for a two-year term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Provide primary assistance to the Human Resource Officer on the overall process of the full cycle of HR management: recruitment, probation, orientation, compensation and benefits, training, performance management, career management, promotion and separation. Specifically, work will involve support on the overall recruitment process from candidate identification, selection, advertisement, reference checks, HR actions, performance evaluation, salary reviews, and other HR activities.
- Carry out a full range of administrative support in the area of local consultant management through timely preparation, negotiation and issuance of local consultant contract in compliance with Bank policies and procedures.
- Identify and resolves diverse issues/problems as they arise, which often requires interpretation of existing procedures and processes and independently determining the appropriate application. Stay abreast of HR rules, policies and procedures to be able to provide support; and facilitate the smooth delivery of services between clients and other units.
- Suggest ways to enhance work organization and effectiveness. Establish and maintain efficient filing system for HR files. Respond to client/candidate inquiries directly or by channeling them to appropriate resources and following up as necessary.
- Exercise quality enhancement function for documents by ensuring adherence to HR and Bank guidelines.
- Attend and record minutes of task team or equivalent meeting and ensures timely clearance and distribution.
- Serve as an information resource on status of HR related information and drafts a variety of standard HR-related correspondence.
- Undertake ad hoc inquiries in HR databases, retrieves, manipulates and presents data.
- Acts as Leave Attendance Records System (LARS) Coordinator for the country office, ensure accurate recording of leave requests and provide guidance on leave policies and procedures to staff.
- Mentor less experienced staff.

Selection criteria:

- College degree in any Behavioral Sciences, Social Science disciplines or other relevant fields;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and commitment to work in a team-oriented, multi-cultural environment;
- High degree of judgment and discretion in acting independently, initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results;
- Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Database program) and adept in using the Intranet/Internet;
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, machines and equipment; and
- Minimum seven (7) years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably in the HR field.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than June 15, 2007

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to:
The Human Resource Officer, BOX 800, C/O PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, 5TH FLR, BLDG-B SM MEGAMALL, EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY.

Academy 21
ON-LINE ENGLISH TEACHERS
REQUIREMENTS:
- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Education/Mass Communication or any related course.
- With at least 1 year teaching experience in English as a second Language
- Must have an excellent communication skills preferably with American or neutral Accent
- Mature, dynamic, hardworking and patient
- Fresh graduates will be considered

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person with Comprehensive Resumé, TOR and certificates at 11th Floor, Strata 2000 Bldg. Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Business Center, Pasig City or contact cellphone no.: 0921-4461600 Landline number: 638 4685 & 914 0597

An Ortigas-based Trading Company is *in need of an:*
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Female, age 20-28
- College graduate from a reputable school (com sci / business related courses)
- Diligent, honest, with a sense of loyalty
- Command of computers an advantage
- Excellent salary for qualified applicants

Interested parties, e-mail
cascade_cc@yahoo.com.ph
Tel. No. 634-6271 to 74
Yvette / Jasmine

NERA

NERA is a premier solutions provider for telecommunications and information technologies with complete product portfolio in microwave radio transmission, satellite communications, IT networking infrastructure and Broadcasting. It started to address the local market early in 1995 and has been a major solutions provider in the various industry from the country's major telco service providers to the finance and retail sector, utilities and to most large enterprise sectors since then. Presently, we are in need of team players for the following positions:

SOFTWARE ENGINEER (2)
QUALIFICATIONS:
1. graduate of Computer Science or related courses;
2. with at least 1 year experience in POS Terminal Programming or any related work;
3. with at least 1 year programming experience using the ff. languages: Net (CH or VB.NET), C++ and Java;
4. must have strong analytical and project management skills & well versed in proper development life cycles, including testing & QA;
5. excellent command in written & oral communication

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (1)
QUALIFICATIONS:
1. graduate of BS Accountancy;
2. knowledgeable in local statutory reporting requirements;
3. Adept in computer application (financial/accounting software);;
4. excellent command in written & oral communication.

SR. BROADCASTING ENGR. (1)
QUALIFICATIONS:
1. graduate of ECE or related courses;
2. experience in coverage planning an added advantage;
3. technical knowledge on broadcast production, post production and content creation system and technology an added advantage;
4. with at least 3 years relevant experience working on TV broadcast head end or TV transmission station.
5. experience working with broadcasters;
6. excellent technical writing and presentation skills.

These are urgent requirements. Interested applicants are requested to submit by email their curriculum vitae with recent passport picture to:

NERA (PHILIPPINES) INC.
8/F Multinational Bancorporation Centre,
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226
Tel. No 849-NERA (6372) loc. 217 / Fax No. 845-3512
Email: mae_liamzon@yahoo.com

SAUDI ENGINEERING GROUP INTERNATIONAL HAS URGENT REQUIREMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

FOR SAUDI ELECTRICITY CO. PROJECTS – (SAUDI ARABIA)
We are looking for technical expertise with 7 to 10 years experience in *Electrical utility Company* for the following positions:

- **DESIGN ENGINEERS – Civil / Structural / Mechanical / Electrical Construction / Projects / Protection / Testing & Commissioning)**
- **COST ENGINEERS – Planning & Scheduling.**
- **ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS – Diploma in Electrical Engineering w/ min. 5 yrs. exp. in the *MAINTENANCE* of: Distribution S/stations (69kv/33kv/13.8kv); S/station Equipment (power transformer/ Switchgears etc.); Distribution Lines (patrolling/ overhead line Equipment etc.); Power & Distribution Transformer; Winding for distribution transformers; ATS & other equipments.**
- **ENGINEERING AIDE – 2 yrs of Associate Technical course w/ at least 5 yrs experience in emergency maintenance duties in a network of up to 33kv level.**
- **JUNIOR ENGINEERS – BSC eng'g (electrical) w/5 yrs exp to assist Senior/Design engrs in estimation/costing/ review, etc. Fresh eng'g graduates preferred.**

Our client will start interviews starting June 10/007.

Applicants may send their CVs to the following:

Eastern Overseas Employment Center, Inc.
561 Shaw Boulevard (David Bldg. II) Mandaluyong City
Email: easternoverseas@hotmail.com
POEA LIC No. 627-LB-071304-R

No fees to be collected For Manpower Pooling Only.
Beware of Illegal Recruiters!

John Robert Powers
International Since 1923

Our business is growing fast. We are seeking for additional goal driven and dynamic people who are motivated by the challenge and opportunity to earn according to their efforts and results.

FEMALE SALES COUNSELORS
- At least 30-35 years old, matured.
- Person to person sales or related front line customer contact with at least 5 years experience.
- Seeks high compensation levels based on performance.
- Works irregular hours including Saturdays with minimum supervision.
- College Graduate, Outstanding Oral and Written English Skills, Pleasing Personality, Computer Literate.

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES
- Female
- At least 1 year sales experience
- Flexibility required. Position entails both in office telephone work and on site "stand up" promotional activity in schools and malls.
- College Graduate, Excellent English Communication Skills, Computer Literate
- Seeks high compensation based primarily on results
- Responsible and systematic team player
- Willing to work long hours, Saturdays and occasionally on Sundays
- Advancement opportunities. We prefer to promote from within the company.

ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE

The successful candidates must have a contemporary upscale image with high-energy and good public relation skills.

Qualified applicants are requested to email or fax their comprehensive resume and a 2 x 2 photo not later than June 15, 2007 to:

THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
JRP AD CENTER, INC.
FAX: 8927657
EMAIL: **manila@johnrobertpowers.com**

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL
is now accepting applications for the following positions:

▶HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
- Filipino Teacher
- Computer Teacher
- PEHM Teacher

▶GRADE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
- Filipino Teacher
- Computer Teacher
- Guidance Counselor / Psychometrician

▶SPD DEPARTMENT
- High School Personality Development Teacher
- English Teacher
- ESL Teacher

▶PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR
(Must possess the following qualifications)
- College graduate preferably with engineering units
- Leadership qualities
- Capable of speaking & writing in both English and Filipino
- Knowledgeable in Computer skills (MS Office)
- Work experience in dealing with rank and file personnel

Apply in person or email your resume to:
THE ADMINISTRATOR
1273 Batangas cor. Faraday Sts. San Isidro, Makati City
Tel. Nos.,815-1601 / 844-1615 / 844-1934
729-7674 / 729-7675 / 8876850
E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph * stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcials@pacific.net.ph • Website http://www.smws.edu.ph

TRANSCONTAINER (TCL) PHILS, INC.
G/F TDG-NYK, Harbor Centre Bldg I Railroad cor. 23rd and 24th Sts., Port Area, Manila

"A Leading Integrated Logistics Service Provider"

We need two (2) Account Executives

- **Management/Marketing graduate or any business related course**
- **Minimum two (2) years experience in Sales/Marketing**
- **25-35 years old (M/F)**
- **Pleasing Personality**
- **Driving skills**
- **Salary negotiable**

For inquiries, please contact:

Admin Department

Trunkline : (632) 527-9888 Loc. 318
Direct Line: 527-8780 / 527-7061
Fax : (632) 527-8780
Website : http://www.tcl.com.ph

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

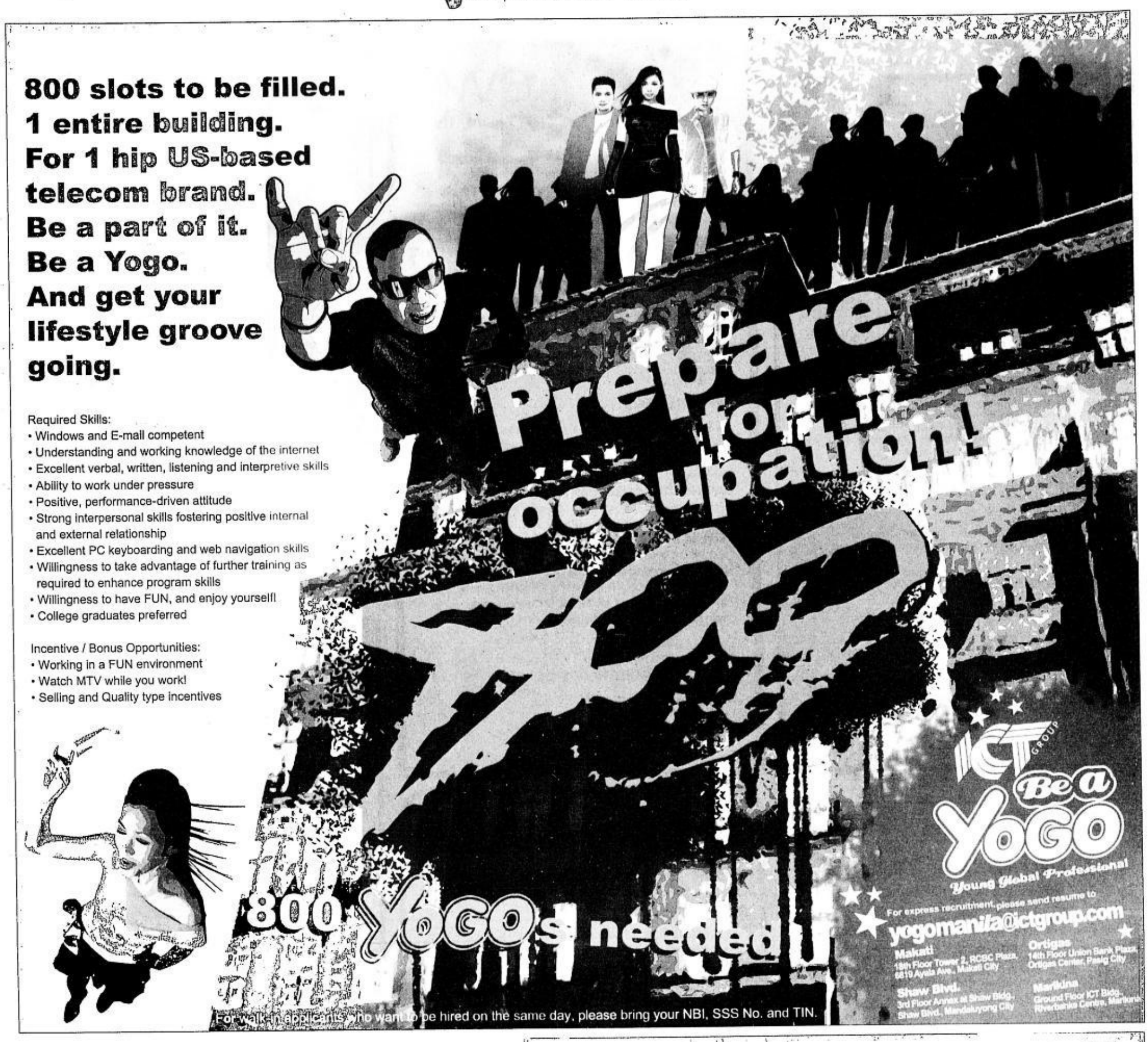
SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Background in computer hardware
- 1-2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- Knowledge in Web Programming VP Scripting, Perl Scripting, Visual Basic or Powerbuilder, MS SQL 2000 or Sybase SQL and other relational database management system

AUDIT ASSISTANT
QUALIFICATIONS:
- Accounting graduate preferably Certified Public Accountant
- At least 2 years experience in auditing/computer audit
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation and Labor Laws

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS OPINIONS

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc
China Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph



Soon-to-open Luxury Hotel in Naga City has career opportunities for...

RESIDENT MANAGER

- With at least two (2) years of experience in hotel and/or resort management.
- Marketing and Sales oriented
- Strong background in rooms management
- Preferably with experience in F&B operations.
- Has good command of oral and written English.
- With good leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge in budget preparation and related financial reports.
- Preferably a graduate of any business related course.
- Computer literate

GENERAL MANAGER

- With more than five (5) years of work experience in a de Luxe hotel and/or resort
- With extensive experience in overall management of hotels and resorts.
- Marketing and Sales oriented
- With very good public relations and customer service skills.
- With strong background in rooms and/or Food & Beverage operations
- Proficient in written and oral English/Filipino.
- With good leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge in budget preparation and related financial reports.
- A college graduate, preferably in Hotel & Restaurant or Tourism related fields.
- Computer literate
- Willing to relocate in the Bicol Region

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER

- With at least five (5) years of working experience in a de Luxe Hotel and/or resort, exclusive club membership or any first class or higher tourism related establishment engaged in Food and beverage service operations.
- Preferably with experience working in similar establishments abroad.
- With extensive experience in managing restaurants, bars dining rooms and Banqueting.
- With very good public relations and customer service skills.
- Proficient in written and oral English/Filipino.
- With good leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge in budget preparation and related financial reports.
- A college graduate, preferably in Hotel & Restaurant or Tourism related fields.
- Computer literate
- Willing to relocate in the Bicol Region

FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR

- With at least three (3) years of working experience in the same capacity in a de Luxe hotel/or resort, exclusive club membership or any first class or higher tourism related establishment engaged in Food and beverage service operations.
- Proficient in written and oral English/Filipino.
- With good leadership and interpersonal skills.
- A college graduate, preferably in Hotel & Restaurant or Tourism related fields.
- Computer literate
- Willing to relocate in the Bicol Region

Please send resume to the following addresses
For Metro Manila applicants :
G-Square Center, 7th floor, Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Manila

For Bicol applicants:
Avenue Square Administration Office, 2nd floor, Avenue Square, Magsaysay Avenue, Naga City

For e-mail applications: avenuesquare@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HAIR STYLIST/BEAUTICIAN
5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
CALL: Tel. No.: (02) 771-1785
Cell. #: (0917) 527-1278

WANTED
BAKER
(BREADS / CAKES)
Apply with resumé to 5462 Labaire Bldg., South Super Hway, Bangkal, Makati (next to PH Gas Station)
To inquire, call 889-3427 • 889-5197

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makati medical center

Makati Medical Center continues to get better as you get better.

For IMMEDIATE HIRE.

Ten (10) Hospital Pharmacists
- *Single, not more than 20 years old*
- *With or without experience*
- *With good oral and written communication skills*
- *Preferably computer literate*
- *Licensed with at least PRC-Board rating*

New graduates are encouraged to apply.

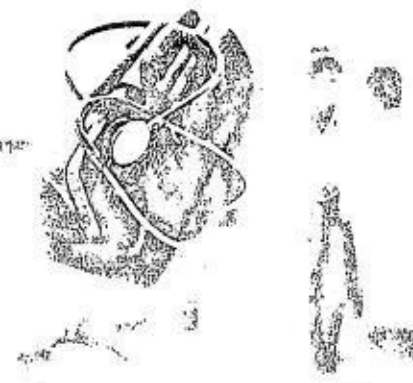
One (1) Information Clerk
- *Female, not more than 25 years old*
- *College graduate*
- *With good oral and written communication skills*

One (1) Electrocardiogram (ECG) Technologist
- *Female, 21 years old and above*
- *Graduate of BS Medical Technology, BS Nursing, RAD Technology Physical Therapy or certified*
- *With or without experience*
- *With good oral and written communication skills*
- *Computer literate*
- *Courteous and able to handle people*

Two (2) 2-D Echo Technologists
- *Female, 21 years old and above*
- *With at least one year experience*
- *Either registered Medical Technologist, registered Nurse, registered RAD Technologist or registered Physical Therapist*
- *Computer literate*
- *Courteous*

Three (3) Electro-Encyphalogram (EEG) Technologists
- *Male or Female, 21 to 26 years old*
- *Either registered Medical Technologist, registered Nurse, registered RAD Technologist or registered Physical Therapist*
- *With good oral & written communication skills*
- *Preferably with background in Neuro-Physiology and in Sleep Studies*
- *Computer literate*

One (1) Patients Relations Officer
- *Female, not more than 25 years old*
- *Graduate of Medical Psychology or Psychiatry*
- *People-oriented*



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR ITS RENOWNED TRAINING PROGRAMS

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Anaesthesiology	**- 4 SLOTS**
Opthalmology	**- 2 SLOTS**
Radiology	**- 1 SLOT**

FELLOWSHIP

Cardiology	**- 3 SLOTS**
Gastro-Enterology	**- 1 SLOT**
Infectious Diseases	**- 2 SLOTS**
Nephrology	**- 1 SLOT**
Nuclear Medicine	**- 1 SLOT**

*For inquiries or details, call Carol or Angel at **888-89-99** local **7376**.*

One (1) Fellow in Breast Clinic

Fellowship Training Program for breast imaging is now open for applicants.

*Call Dr. Ma. Lourdes G. Yatco at **888-89-99 loc. 7379 or 7395.***

*Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Medical Education Office at 9th Floor or apply directly through **www.makatimed.net.ph.***

Apply online at www.makatimed.net.ph or walk-in at the Makati Medical Center, 2 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTH SECTOR POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME (TA4HSP)
An EC funded programme

In 2005 the Department of Health (DoH) began implementing its FOURmula One Policy for Health approach which aims at attaining better health outcomes, a more responsive health systems and equitable health care through action in the four areas of financing, regulation, service delivery and governance. The European Commission (EC) provides technical assistance to the DoH to support the implementation of the Health Sector Policy Support Program. To complete its staff, the technical assistance team needs the following:

DEPUTY TEAM LEADER AND PLANNING SPECIALIST – Support the Team Leader and Planning Specialist with the implementation of the programme, coordinating the technical assistance inputs and entail the development of extensive working relationships with all DOH offices and other parties relevant to the programme.

DEPUTY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST - Support the Financial Management Specialist in developing capacity in DoH financial management and procurement and support the staff in Financial Services, Procurement and Logistics.

DEPUTY DRUG REGULATION SPECIALIST - Support the Drug Regulation Specialist at BFAD in providing technical support for strengthening the regulatory and technical capacity of the Bureau of Food and Drug.

2 POSITIONS - **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (LGU PFMA)** - In coordination with the Financial Management Specialist and the Deputy, the Local Government Unit (LGU) Public Financial Management Specialist and with relevant oversight agencies in particular DILG, DBM and COA, the LGU PFMA assists in technical aspects of Public Finance Management in the Provinces.

General Qualifications and skills:

- Successful tertiary education in a field directly relevant to their position, preferably Masters level or equivalent.
- Strong communication skills.
- Computer literate with office applications.
- Fluency in English and Tagalog, both written and spoken.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience with regard to the relevant sector.

Exposure to the Philippine reforms relevant to their position would be an advantage.

Government officials are only eligible after prior permission by their Department and the EC.

Please submit your CV in EU format with not more than 3 pages at:
ta4hsp_recruit@yahoo.com
Please submit your CV not later than **June 15, 2007** and indicate the position in the subject line.
You may download the EU format at
http://europa.eu.int/comm/**europeaid**/experts

CVs not in EU format will not be accepted.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Management Systems International (MSI) project with offices in Salcedo Village, Makati is looking for a

Director for Finance and Administration

The Director of Administration and Finance reports to the Chief of Party and is responsible for ensuring the effective operation of the project's administrative and finance support group, including financial and grant management, purchasing, inventory, personnel, logistics and compliance with local laws and contractual obligations. The Director will also assist in program planning, implementation, and development, including development of project and organizational budgets, as needed. The Director will also ensure that the capacities of administration and finance staff are strengthened.

The Director for Finance and Administration must have at least 8 years professional experience, and MUST have at least 3 years USAID administration and finance policies and processes experience.

Senior Project Accountant

The Senior Project Accountant reports to the Director of Finance and is responsible for all aspects of Project accounting and financial management, utilizing general accounting principles, following MSI home office field accounting procedures and adhering USAID and local government policies, procedures and regulations. He/She will be responsible for, but not limited to the project's financial management, monthly reporting to the home office, record keeping, grants and subcontract management, payroll and travel expense management and communications.

The Senior Project accountant must have at least 5 years professional and at least 2 years of USAID administration and finance policies and procedures experience.

Interested applicants, please send in your applications to **lbarland@msi-inc.com**, or mail them to Unit 2302, 23rd Floor, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Sedeno corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati 1227. Deadline for applications is on June 15th.

MEDTECS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION LIMITED

Medtecs a multinational group of companies listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange. Our group is a leading manufacturer and distributor of medical consumables for the medical healthcare industry and also a major player in the medical linen leasing and hospital laundry business. We are currently looking for:

PLANT MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Male or Female
- Filipino - Graduate of a Philippine University; Chinese - H.S. graduate
- Above 10 years work experience in a Garments Industry and have experience handling factory with more than 500 workers
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Must be fluent in English
- 30 years old and above
- Willing to be assigned at the Bataan Economic Zone, Mariveles, Bataan.

International MARKETING ASSISTANTS

Qualifications:
- Male or female
- University graduates major in Business Administration, preferably with MBA or graduate from University of the Phils. (UP), Ateneo or La Salle University
- 2 years Work experience in marketing or related field
- With good communication skill and willing to travel overseas
- Age between 24 to 35 years old
- Willing to be assigned at Makati or Bataan Economic Zone, Mariveles, Bataan.

Interested applicants are invited to send their resumé with 2"x2" picture, transcript of records and other credentials to the **Human Resources Dept., Medtecs International Corp. Ltd., Bataan Ecozone, Mariveles, Bataan, Tel: 047-9354287/4289; email: ching@unet.net.ph**

ProView
GLOBAL ADMINISTRATION, INC.

ProView Global is a technology-enabled BPO whose newest division will be tasked to create Microsoft enterprise-class systems, build web-based software and a collection of web portals for a US-based company.

SENIOR APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Responsible for the selection, management, development & leadership of an offshore software development team.

REQUIREMENTS:

• 6+ years in software & web application design & development • 3+ years experience with formal development methodologies • Strong development experience in: Visual Studio 2005, SQL 2000 and 2005, ASP.Net, .Net 2.0 & 3.0 Framework, C #, SPROCS & Triggering, AJAX • Significant development experience: MS Enterprise Library, ASP.Net, Visio Enterprise Architecture • Strong business analysis experience • Detail-oriented & able to meet deadlines, including working off-hours to accomplish objectives • Proven track record of delivery & commitments • Ability to create a positive & professional business relationship with internal & external clients • Open to travel

hr@proviewglobal.com
www.proviewglobal.com

6F Ortigas [illegible] Ave. Ortigas Pasig City

ACCOUNTANTS

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Preferably with previous working experience
- With excellent communication skills

Interested accountants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials Mondays to Wednesdays, 8:00 to 11:00 AM:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
Sedeño corner Valero Street
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City

JOB OPENING

We're an established Manufacturing company that produces & manufactures Resin lamps, accessories & gift items

seeking for:

TWO PRODUCT DESIGNERS

Preferably with 2 years relevant working experience
Male or Female (22-35 yrs old)

10 working hrs. daily
4 days off per month
One return air ticket per year
Attractive salary awaits qualified applicants
Food / Accommodation provided

Interested applicants may send their resumé with art works to
hermes007@vip.163.com

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN., INC.
(Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
Molave St., BNS Fort Bonifacio Taguig City
887-3736 or 39

JOB OPENING

Accounting Staffs and others

- Accounting Graduate or any Business course related
- Male / Female
- 20-25 years old
- Single
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal / social skills

Qualified applicants may personally apply from issuance of this notice and bring application letter, NBI xerox, current resumé, transcript of records and recent inexpensive photo.

Philkingdom, INC. is a company sanctioned by PAGCOR to provide entertainment in the form of sports betting. We have a complete Sports Book which offers its customers guaranteed payouts, extensive Coverage of all major football leagues and other international sporting Events. We are inviting hardworking and highly motivated young people who are looking for a long-term career to join us as: (Preferably with sports betting experience)

1. Sales Executives/Agents
- Preferably at least 1 year experience in outdoor sales

2. Bookkeepers
- no experience required
- Accounting graduate or any business related course

3. I.T. Executives
- Candidate must be a graduate of Computer Engineering, ECE, Computer Science or its equivalent.
- At least 3 years experience in network troubleshooting/Commissioning, proficient in hardware assembly and troubleshooting
- Knows installation and configuration of Windows and Linux operating systems.
- Quick learner with desire to learn new tools and techniques
- Knowledge in server, routers, WiFi, Email set-up an advantage
- Background in programming will also be an advantage for future growth

Competitive compensation package and a rewarding professional career awaits successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé with 2x2 picture to **joetang@philkingdom.com**

For more than 60 years, we have worked to alleviate human suffering, and in our continued efforts to be the foremost humanitarian organization in the Philippines, we would like to invite applicants to join us as

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS

1. Finance and Administration Officer
Qualifications:
- A Bachelor's degree in accounting and preferably a CPA
- Past experience in working for a busy accounting office
- Fluency in English, both oral and written
- Computer Literate
- Good interpersonal skills
- Writing skills
- Experience in administrative roles
- Adaptable to a multi-cultural setting

2. Senior Administrative Assistant
Qualifications:
- A Bachelor's degree or Diploma in Business Administration
- Good writing skills and fluency in English
- Computer Literate
- Good interpersonal skills
- Experience in administrative roles
- Ability to work under pressure
- Self motivated and exercise good judgment
- Adaptable to multi-cultural setting

If you believe that you are qualified for the above positions, please send your CV on or before 12 June 2007 to:

The Manager, Human Resources
The Philippine National Red Cross
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Telefax no. 527-6219
Or email to: hrd@redcross.org.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Male BSEE, pref. licensed, max. 38 years old
- With 2-3 years above experience in electrical maintenance/installation in a manufacturing / industrial plant. Pref. in heavy industry
- Knowledgeable in fault diagnoses and rectification solutions

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
- Male BSME, pref. licensed max. 38 years old
- With 3 years above experience in machine & equipment maintenance / installation / operation in an industrial plant
- Exposed in machine shop works (fabrication & repair)

MILLWRIGHT / MECHANICAL FITTER* / PIPE FITTER* MACHINIST / TIG WELDER
- Male, max. 38 years old. Technical course grad. or equivalent experience
- Exposed in an industrial or manufacturing plant setting (heavy industry), in maintenance, troubleshooting, installation of machine & equipment
- Can read / interpret structural, fabrication & erection drawing*
- With at least 3 years actual working experience

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN
- Male max. 35 years instrument tech grad / BSEE, ECE or equivalent exp.
- At least 2 years exp. in a manufacturing plant or instrument installation, calibration, maintenance (PLC, Sensors, Controls, Level, Flow etc.)

Send complete resumé with contact number at:

FEDCO PAPER CORPORATION
Carmelray Industrial Park 2 Canlubang
Calamba City, Laguna 4028

or at P.O. Box 2004 Ortigas Ctr.
Post Office 1660 Pasig City
of Fax resumé at (049) 5492446

A progressive multinational co mfg leading US brand names has immediate openings for:

- CPA
- ACCTG/FINANCE GRADS
- IND'L ENG'G GRADS
- COM SCI/IT GRADS
- STATISTICS GRADS
- MATH GRADS

ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION AWAITS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS.

Apply in person with application letter, resumé and 2x2 photo or send them by mail, fax or email to:

GTVL Manufacturing Industries, Inc.
7000 Santol Street, Mon-El Subdivision,
Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City
Fax Number: 8256943 • Email: **conrado@jockey.com.ph**
Tel. No. 825-69-62 to 64

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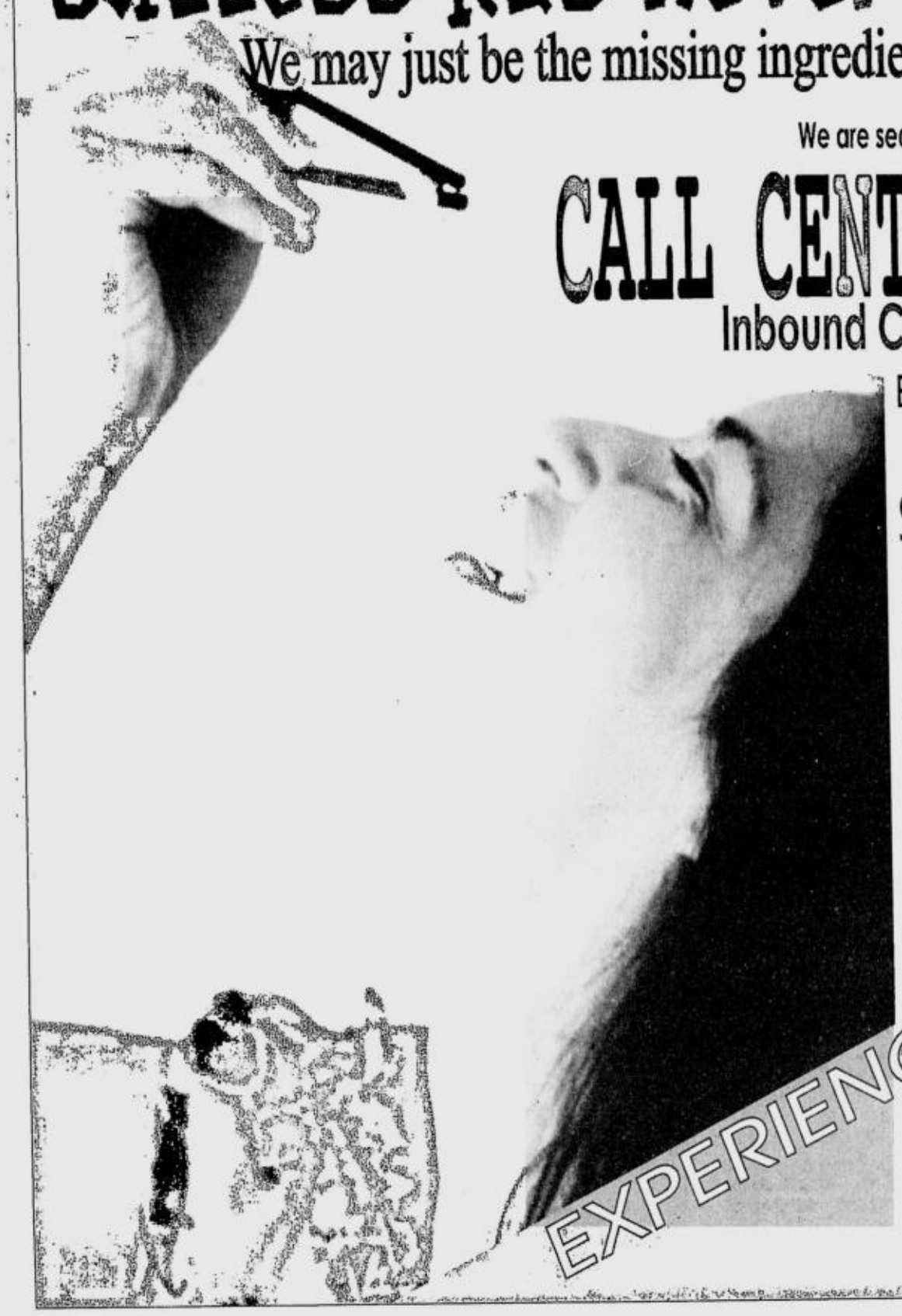
We may just be the missing ingredient you've been looking for.



We are searching for SEASONED CALL CENTER PROFESSIONALS for

CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

Inbound Customer Service and Outbound Sales

EARN AS MUCH AS P30,000++ MONTHLY

OTHER MANAGERIAL/SUPPORT OPENINGS:

- Client Relations Manager
- Workforce Manager
- Operations Director
- Product Trainer
- Core Skills Trainer

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Makati City
15th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue

Quezon City
1024 Global Trade Center Building,
Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue (EDSA)

Monday to Friday, 7AM to 3PM

vxi

www.vxi.com

Email: careersph@vxi.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A) CUSTOMER SERVICE
B) TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- 21 to 30 yrs old, female, college graduate – A & B
- experience in Visa Documentation is an advantage – A
- computer literate preferably in Microsoft Office (Excel & Word) – A & B
- hardworking and with good oral English communication – A & B

1 INBOUND / OUTBOUND RESERVATION STAFF

- female, up to 35 yrs. old
- with experience in Abacus / Amadeus CRS in a Travel Agency

Interested applicants may apply in office attire with comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture, TOR and NBI or Police Clearance at:
DISCOVERY TOUR, INC.
GF Unit 301 Sagittarius Bldg., HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

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IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY COLLEGE-PARAÑAQUE

is in need of SCHOOL STAFF for the School Year 2007-2008

I. HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
- A) FILIPINO
  1. Preferably BSEd graduate.
- B) PHYSICS
  1. Preferably BSEd or any related course in Mechanical, Civil, Electrical Engineering, BS/AB major in Physics.
- C) ARTS EDUCATION
  1. Preferably BSEd or any related course in Architecture, AB/BS in Fine Arts major in Interior Design, Painting
- D) MUSIC
  1. Preferably BSEd or any related course in Music (with specialization in music, can play the piano and any musical instruments)

II. ELEMENTARY TEACHERS
- 1) PHYSICAL EDUCATION
  1. Preferably BEEd/BSEd graduate.

2. Must be CATHOLIC.
3. Preferably female, single.
4. Proficient in oral and written communication both in English and Filipino
5. With pleasing personality and must not be more than 35 years old
6. Patient, hardworking, and with genuine love for children.
7. Computer literate.
8. Preferably a holder of Professional Teacher Certificate / Board Exam.
9. Work experience an advantage but not a requirement

Interested applicants are requested to apply personally/mail:
(Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.) (Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
Please bring the following:
- Application Letter, Comprehensive resumé with contact number
- Recent 2x2 photo, Transcript of records

HRD OFFICE
Immaculate Heart of Mary College
Dominic Savio St., Better Living Subdivision Parañaque City
Tel No 823-4109

Build your future with us

Republic Cement Group of Companies

Republic Cement Group of Companies, in which French cement company Lafarge Cement is a strategic investor, is currently looking for:

CADET ENGINEERS

Requirements:
- Must be a Mining Engineer graduate
- Must either be a fresh graduate or with 1-2 years work experience
- Must be in the top 10% of his/her graduating class or have a professional license
- Must possess leadership qualities
- Must be driven and willing to gain hands-on experience
- Preferably living near Bulacan or Batangas, or be willing to live in those areas

Applicants may apply electronically, quoting the **Job Title** on the subject line. Please attach either your certificate of graduation (for fresh graduates) or transcript of records, and your resumes and email it to Macecilia.Sese@ph.lafarge.com **not later than June 15, 2007.** You may also send it through mail to **Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc., 25th Floor Salcedo Tower, 169 H.V. dela Costa Ave., Salcedo Village, Makati City.** Please quote the job title on the envelope.

LAFARGE SEMENTO

WRITERS

We are recruiting energetic writers to produce the next generation of compelling website content, ad copy, search engine text, and online marketing materials for our GLOBAL clientele.

Qualifications:
- At least ONE YEAR writing experience (can be academic)
- At least a Bachelor's degree in any field
- Excellent English grammar and writing skills
- Must be able to work well under pressure and tight deadlines
- Highly organized, detail-oriented, and creative
- Internet-savvy and familiar with computers
- Fresh graduates are strongly encouraged to apply

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for producing high-quality articles, reviews, and blog entries in accordance to set rules
- Participates in team efforts to meet or exceed production goals and elevate quality standards

We Provide:
- Competitive compensation package and full mandatory benefits
- Thematic diversity and intellectually stimulating workflow and environment

Please bring your resumé and be ready to take a writing and grammar exam, from Monday to Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Please look for Riza or Melissa at the address below:

intelligraph

Unit 4A, 4th Floor, Agustin I Building, F. Ortigas Jr. Rd. (Formerly Emerald Ave.)
Ortigas Center, Pasig City – Tel. # 687-6817
www.intelligraph.biz

URGENT HIRING!!!

CARPET SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Female
- Must have at least 1 year sales experience
- Graduate of any Interior Design Related Course
- Willing to work/trained locally and in Singapore
- Must be able to speak English fluently
- Must be able to work independently

Interested applicants may apply at:

Unit 1708 Citiland Herrera Tower
Rufino cor. Valero St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-3337
or email your resumé with 2x2 picutre at
bebet@smjf.com.ph

PSMBFI 1997

Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund, Inc.
318-320 cor. 1st & 2nd Sts., West Crame, Santolan Rd., San Juan, Metro Manila

MANAGER, Insurance Department

Master's Degree in Business or related field. Preferably with a Bachelor of Laws degree; at least 7 years, including 5 years full-time experience in life accident or health insurance administration; licensed underwriter; familiarity with policy issue and claims settlement, criminal and civil laws relating to insurance, and insurance-related medical terms; proficient in assessing the authenticity of public documents; excellent oral and written communication skills; strong management and interpersonal skills.

Interested applicants may submit/email their resume with 2x2 picture and transcript of records **on or before June 24, 2007**. Look for Sarah Miranda (AHRD) **admhr@psmbfi.com.ph**

HARIBON FOUNDATION

HARIBON FOUNDATION IS PRESENTLY LOOKING FOR DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WITH KEEN INTEREST IN BUILDING A CAREER IN A NON-GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

Human Resources Assistant

- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Psychology, Management or any related course
- Preferably with at least two (2) years work experience as an HR generalist
- Knowledge in Compensation & Benefits Administration, Employee Relations, and/or Recruitment & Selection is an advantage
- Good verbal and written communication skills, good analytical skills and detail-oriented

Qualified applicants may email their resume at **humanresources@haribon.org.ph**, indicate on the subject line the POSITION you are applying for. Please visit our website **www.haribon.org.ph** for other job postings.

RAINBOW Pacific PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTOR OF REXAIR, INC. BASED IN MICHIGAN, USA NEEDS

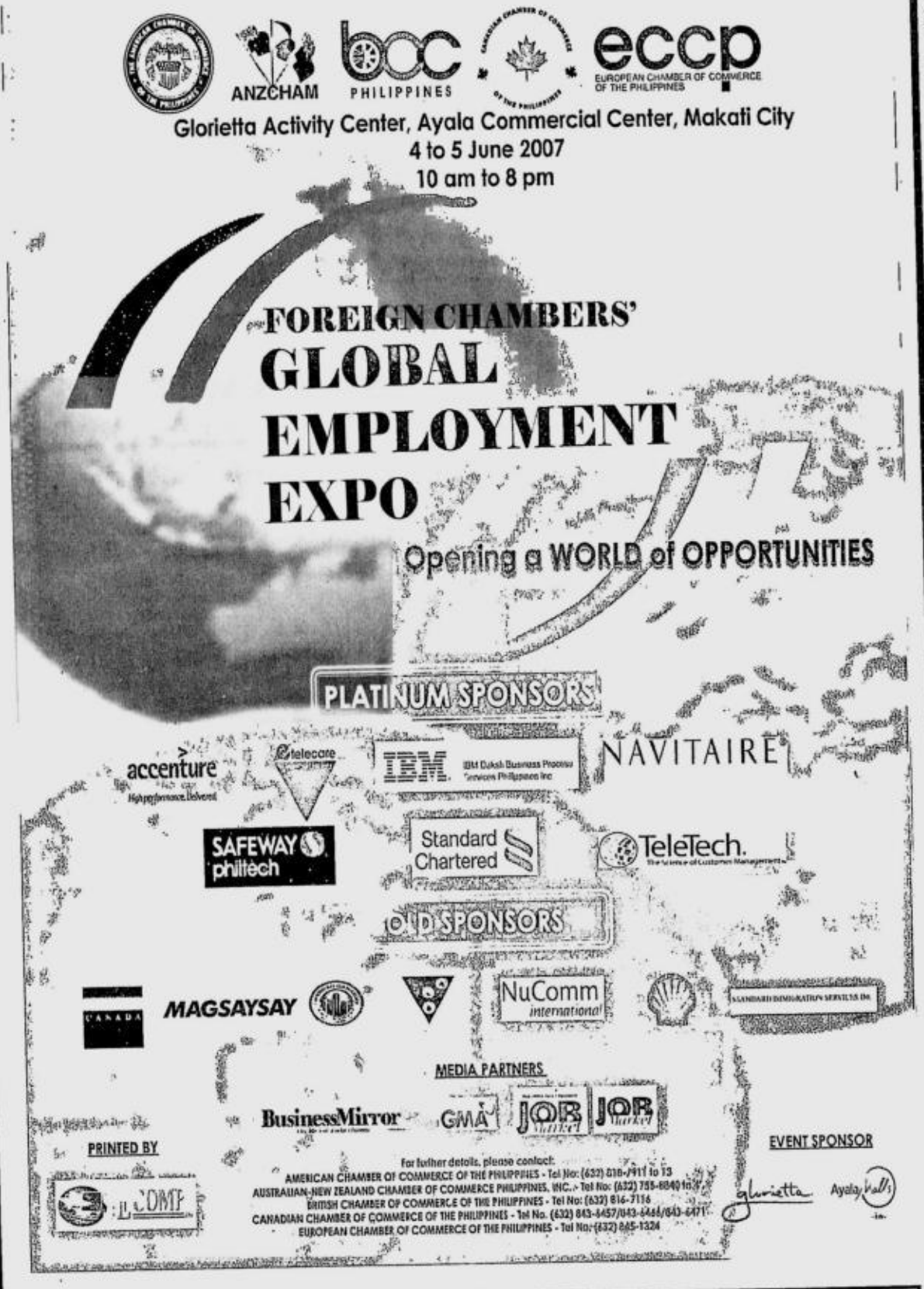
TRAINING MANAGERS / SALES SUPERVISORS - At least 2 years experience in motivational, attitudinal and skills training of sales staff. Those with 2 or more years sales experience may apply and be trained as supervisors.

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATORS - New graduates will be trained to demonstrate a unique, top quality, multi purpose health machine in modern homes of the rich and famous. Company van to and from every presentation, training allowance, incentives up to P 500.00 per presentation, sales commissions, bonuses and incentives of up to P25,000.00 per unit sold, free appliances and trips abroad.

TELEMARKETERS – Call center experience with good English or Mandarin or Fookien is an advantage. Pleasing feminine voice.

Apply in person and bring resumé and passport photo to RAINBOW Pacific – 85 Apo St., Mandaluyong City, near BONI MRT Station, back of former Proton Building after Professional Tower in EDSA.

INTERVIEWS/BRIEFING: MONDAYS at 3 PM and 6 PM ONLY.



A Government-owned and Controlled Corporation is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

- **ARCHITECT/PLANNER** (must be a licensed Architect; with over 2 years relevant work experience)
- **DEPOT ENGINEER** (must be a licensed Civil Engineer; with over 2 years relevant work experience in railway depot construction)
- **CIVIL WORKS ENGINEER** (must be a licensed Civil Engineer; must have over 2 years relevant work experience in railway projects; familiarization with AUTOCAD software an advantage)
- **STRUCTURAL ENGINEER** (must be a licensed Civil Engineer; with over 2 years relevant work experience; experience in railway projects and familiarization with design softwares i.e. STAAD – latest version, an advantage)
- **TRACK WORKS ENGINEER** (must be a licensed Civil Engineer; must have over 2 years relevant work experience in railway projects, specifically track works; familiarization with the installation and maintenance of railway tracks an advantage)
- **COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER** (must be a licensed Electronics and Communications Engineer; with over 2 years relevant work experience in railways projects)
- **ROLLING STOCK ENGINEER** (must be a licensed Mechanical Engineer; with over 2 years relevant work experience in railway projects)

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION (ROWA) PERSONNEL

- **ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER** (must be a Bachelor's Degree holder – preferably Bachelor of Law; must have at least 3 years experience as a ROW negotiator; has handled land acquisition works; must be well-oriented in the technical and legal aspects of ROW acquisition matters; must be able to understand and interpret land title descriptions; must be computer literate and can manipulate Microsoft Word and Excel programs)
- **SUPPORT STAFF PARALEGAL** (must be a graduate of a four-year course; must have at least 2 years experience as a ROW negotiator; has handled expropriation cases; must be well-oriented in the technical and legal aspects of ROW acquisition matters; must be able to understand and interpret land title descriptions; must be computer literate and can manipulate Microsoft Word and Excel programs)
- **SUPPORT STAFF TECHNICAL** (must be a graduate of an Engineering course; must be computer literate and knowledgeable in AUTOCAD system; must be knowledgeable in reading and interpreting lot technical descriptions; must know how to prepare cadastral plans in AUTOCAD; must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel programs)
- **SUPPORT STAFF COMREL** (must be a graduate of a four-year course; must have experience in community relations work; must be well-oriented in the social aspects of ROW acquisition matters; must be able to understand and interpret lot title descriptions; must be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel programs)

Interested applicants may submit their resume (with 2X2 picture and necessary attachments) at the Old Officer's Clubhouse, Philippine Army Recreation Center, JUSMAG Area, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on or before 08 June 2007.

A dynamic international e-learning company focuses exclusively on providing review programs for health professionals are in need of the following:

Manager (2)
w/ exp. in software development & management, e-learning software & management & graduate of computer related course.

Marketing Manager
w/ exp. in online marketing and has excellent communication skills, w/ 1 yr. exp. in e-learning company.

Finance Manager (2)
CPA & w/ at least 3 yrs. exp. in the same field.

Accountant (3)
CPA and with at least 1 year exp.

Operations Manager (2)
Industrial Engineering Graduate & w/ at least 3 yrs. exp. in service-oriented company.

Customer Relations Officers (2)
AB Psychology/ BSN Graduates & w/ excellent communication skills.

Operations Staff (4)
Industrial Engineering Graduate & w/ at least 1 yr. exp. in service-oriented company.

Applicants should be willing to start immediately.
Please submit your applications on or before June 8, 2007 to:

Mr. Allan Salanguste
Nuvent, Inc.
#1555 Ramona Suites, Adriatico
cor. Pedro Gil Streets, Ermita, Manila.
E-mail: nuvent_hrd@yahoo.com
Tel. No.: 521.8386

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

25-35 years old, M/F, College graduate
At least 3 years experience in sales of consumer goods
Must know how to drive a car
Must have a good command of English (verbal and written)
Able to deal with people of all levels, background and title

Basic salary ++
% of SALES and BONUS

Interested applicants may send resumé to:
info@chocolatesbybenoit.com

GRAVITAS ASIA CORPORATION

A growing engineering firm with existing clients in Florida and California is in need of:

PROJECT MANAGER

- Civil Engineering graduate with at least 5 years of experience on **Steel Detailing, preferably with U.S. projects.**
- Experience on Design and Ornamental Detailing an advantage.
- Must have a hands-on experience with **Autocadd 2006**
- Experience in **X-steel and/or SDS2** is an advantage
- Must have **good Oral and Written Communication Skills**
- Preferably with **Leadership Skills** to manage a team of professional detailers.
- Willing to work on **extended working hours** if needed.
- Great opportunity for advancement, travel to US and other countries, and potential for future relocation.

Interested applicant may send their resume with their credentials to
o.descalzo@gravitasasia.com or
lynn.romero.1028@gmail.com

- URGENT HIRING -

HR MANAGER
- Male/Female, 28 to 38 years old
- Graduate of Psychology
- At least 3 yrs demonstrated exp. in all facets of HR in a Supervisory and/or Managerial position
- Knowledge in Labor Laws is a must
- Have handled at least 300 personnel
- Expertise in Personnel Management is at par

AREA MANAGER
- Male/Female: 25-30 years old
- Graduate of Buss. Mngt. or any related course
- At least 2 yrs. demonstrated experience in Operations
- W/ car is a must but if none, willing to commute to cover assigned areas
- Excellent oral & written communication skills

HR ASST.
- Male/Female, 26-28 years old.
- About 1-3 yrs. of professional training & demonstrated work exp. covering both general & specific knowledge in HR.
- Knowledge in Labor Laws & its application is an edge.
- Position does not require close supervision as it incoming is capable of independently following plans & established methods.

FOOD DELIVERY RIDERS
- Male, not more than 30 yrs. old; at least 5'6 in ht.
- With professional driving license restriction 1&2.
- Experience in Delivery is an advantage.
- Familiar in Makati, Manila, QC, Greenhills, San Juan Areas

Interested applicants may apply personally with credentials at:

MULTI-SERVICES, INCORPORATED
283 El Grande Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City
Tel: 788-0338 to 40
Email: supramultiservices@yahoo.com
Look for Ms. Armi Garcia / Ma. Karen Solomon

WALLWIDE PRINTING INC.
WANTED IMMEDIATELY
SALES AND/OR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE
REQUIREMENTS:
- Aggressive
- Honest
- Good communication skills

If you are interested to apply please submit your resume to:
#11 Freemont Arcade, Shaw Blvd.,
Bgy. San Antonio, Pasig City
634-1510 / 0921-413-7643
wallwide_lloyd@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Operator / Encoder
- Male / Female, Knowledgeable in AutoCAD version 2003-2008, at least 5 months experience in the same field.

Electrical Engineer
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering Course; Male / Female, at least 20-25 years of age; willing to be assigned in Laguna area; newly graduate are welcome to apply, board passer is an advantage.

Civil Engineer
- Graduate of Civil Engineering Course; Male / Female, at least 20-25 years of age; willing to be assigned to Laguna area, newly graduate are welcome to apply, board passer is an advantage.

SALES Consultant – Male/Female, w/ pleasing personality; graduate of any 4-year course; must know how to drive w/ valid driver's license

Automotive Technician – Automotive graduate is a must, at least 2 years experience.

Data Encoder – at least with 5 months experience

Accounting Asst. – male /female graduate of BS-Accountancy, with experience is an advantage.

CAV Management Training & Consultancy
Unit 407, 4th Floor Fabricare Building
Almanza Las Piñas City
Telephone No. (632) 850-6223; email address:
cav.recruitment@gmail.com
Interested applicants may apply
from 9:00 a.m to 4 p.m.
Please bring resume and 2 pcs of 2x2 picture
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.
JOB Market visit us at
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JOB WORLD
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ROADSHOW 2007
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Don Mariano Marcos Ave, QC
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June 7 and 8, 2007
10 AM to 6PM
YOUR DREAM JOB AWAITS. DON'T MISS IT!

Joy In Lifelong Learning Station (JILL Station)
is in need of
TEACHERS

For children ages 2-5 years old who speak good English and preferably with background in Child Education or Child Psychology.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé with recent ID photo and to join training sessions at:

163 Boni Avenue, Plainview, Mandaluyong City
(between Sto. Rosario & San Joaquin Streets)
w/ Telephone No. (02) 531-6602

TradeONE

NOW HIRING, we offer competitive salary, commission and opportunity for training abroad

SERVICE TECHNICIAN
- Completion of technical degree
- Knowledge and experience in pumps and motors required.
- Male, ages 22-35 years old. Driving a plus

SALES PERSONS
- Completion of Engineering or Marketing degree
- Experience on marketing Industrial or Commercial equipments required. With valid drivers license

PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT 371-3032 / 412-6363
NO. 56 ARAGON ST., SFDM, Q.C.

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012
Fax 8925578
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Brion decries misquote on holidays

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Arturo D. Brion clarified on Thursday that he was grossly misquoted as saying that the government's holiday economics is "anti-labor" and "anti-business" following Malacanang's declaration of June 11, a Monday, as non-working holiday.

Holiday economics is a term used when President Arroyo moves non-working holidays to the nearest weekend to allow families to spend more time together and help boost domestic tourism.

"What the paper quoted was my statement during an interview in Malacanang before May 1 in response to a query on whether April 30, which is a Monday, would be declared a non-working holiday because May 1 was a Tuesday. The query was whether there would be continuous holidays from the weekend to May 1," Brion said.

"My position is that the declaration of April 30 as an additional special non-working holiday would be prejudicial to the daily paid workers who would not be paid for that day, while an unscheduled non-working day is against the interest of the business because they did not factor in this holiday in their plan of operations," he said. "There was also no prior announcement or any indication that May 1 would be moved to April 30."

He made it clear that as early as January this year, June 11 had already been declared as non-working holiday through Proclamation No. 1211 signed by President Arroyo.

"This is something that had been announced already at the start of the year so we assumed that the businesses and our workers have already adjusted their schedules," Brion said.

Meanwhile, the Labor Chief advised the country's employers on the rules for regular holidays to be observed during the non-working holiday on June 11 as follows:

An employee will receive his or her regular wage even if he or she doesn't work on June 11, 2007, whether the day is his or her regular workday or rest day;

On the other hand, if the day is a regular workday for the employee and the employee works on that day, he or she gets 200 percent of the regular wage for that day. If the employee works in excess of eight hours, he or she receives the hourly wage for that day (which is 200 percent of his or her regular wage divided by eight) plus 30 percent of that hourly rate;

If the day is the employee's rest day and the employee works on that day, he or she receives 260 percent of his or her regular wage. If the employee renders overtime work, he or she receives his or her hourly rate for that day (which 260 percent of his or her regular wage divided by 8) plus 30 percent of that rate.

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Together with their cover letter, applicants must submit their undergraduate and law transcript of records, bar exam grades, resume with recent 2x2 picture and a list of references with their telephone numbers and e-mail address. Only those who were in the top 20% of their law graduating class will be considered. Graduates of the Law Schools of UP, Ateneo and San Beda are preferred, unless the applicant is from a law school not mentioned above can show outstanding grades, e.g. top 10% of the graduating class and above-average bar exam grades.

Screening period is from June to mid-July 2007, with the successful candidate to be hired by end of July 2007.

Applicants may send their applications to P.O. Box No. 1112, Araneta Center, Quezon City with the following code written on the front surface of their sealed brown envelope: LEGAL Dept. CODE QC-0307. Regretfully, incomplete applications cannot be processed.

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Interested applicants may mail or bring their resumé and transcript of records to Health Carousel Phils., Inc. Unit 1803-1805 Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City or email resume to gsa.candidates@globalscholarship.org.

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Fortyfive students were granted free high school education when Sykes Asia, together with partners, A Better Chance (ABC) Foundation and Springboard Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Agreement on May 7 in Sienna College in Taytay, Rizal. Representing Sykes is HR Director Ruchi Mehrotra (seated in center) who is flanked by ABC President Dr. Bayani Delos Santos and Springboard President Annette Helbig. The event marks another milestone for Sykes Asia and its philanthropy arm, Sykes Cares.

16TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF DWIZ RADIO STATION

The Aliw Broadcasting Corporation – DWIZ Radio Station celebrates its 16th year anniversary on May 11 held at 5th Floor City State Ctr, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City. Photo shown are (from left) Ely G. Aligora, DWIZ Program Director with DWIZ Broadcasters Raffy Chico, Director Haydee Hizon, Boyet de la Cruz and Ernie Mapagpala Cruz.

Dutch orthodontist to conduct a series of lectures seminar

DR. K. HERO BREUNING OF THE Netherlands will hold a series of lecture seminars in the Philippines, starting on June 5, 2007 here in Manila at the SM MegaTrade Conference Center Function Room B from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and then followed by another lecture in Davao on June 7, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Serenade Function Room, Grand Men Seng Hotel, Davao City, and then lastly on June 10 in Cebu at the SM City Cebu Conference Center Halls A and B, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dr. Breuning received his DDS and orthodontic training from the University of Utrecht and has published over 15 articles on orthodontic subjects in the last five years. He received his PhD degree on Intra-Oral Mandibular Distraction from the University of Amsterdam in 2004, and published topics in several textbooks on Distraction and Temporary Anchorage Devices. In November 2005, he and Peter Van Strijen received the Hamer Duyvensz Award for their thesis on distraction.

The lecture seminar is entitled; "State of the Art Orthodontics: Efficient Orthodontic Treatment using Self Ligating Brackets, Miniscrews, and Intra-Oral Distraction" The lecture seminar series is jointly sponsored by Dentistree and American Orthodontics.

Dr. Breuning

For more information, please contact 02-9264526 or 02-456-0590 or visit Dentistree's website at www.dentistree.com

SSS hosts OFW day and jobs fair

IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORT TO BRING ITS services closer to members, the Social Security System (SSS) will host the first OFW Day and Jobs Fair for all overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families. This was announced by SSS Vice President for Public Affairs Marissu G. Bugante who added that the event will be held on Friday, June 8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the SSS Livelihood Trade Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City (fronting the Land Transportation Office).

"With the theme '*SSS At OFW: Magkaagapay, Magkaibigan, Magkabalikat Magpakailanman*', the event aims to reach out to the OFWs and their families as a fitting tribute to all migrant workers in celebration of the Migrant Workers' Day on June 7," Ms. Bugante said.

The whole-day event will feature services such as labor information, free seminars on livelihood, job, investment and business opportunities, free legal assistance and counseling, and free medical mission. Lots of give-aways and promotional items are also in store from sponsors like Globe Telecom, Bayad Center, Bancnet, Filinvest Land, Inc., Landbank, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG).

The SSS OFW Day and Jobs Fair is held in cooperation with Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Technology Resource Center, Quezon City Public Employment Service Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, Kaibigan, OFW Family Club, Zonta Club of Quezon City, Center for Overseas Workers, National Greening Movement Foundation, and Women in Development Foundation, Inc. Admission is free.

For further details, contact the SSS Corporate Communications Department at 435-9796 or 920-6401 locals 5324 and 5331.

Organization-based conflict management workshop

MAINTAINING HEALTHY RELATIONS among colleagues in the workplace entails managing interpersonal differences that impair teamwork, quality, decision-making and cooperation in the organization.

Taking cognizance of this, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) is spearheading a workshop on Organization-Based Conflict Management on June 6, 8:30 am to 5 pm, at the ECOP Boardroom, ECC Bldg., Makati City. The resource speaker is Maria Lourdes L. Aseneta, Organizational Development Consultant and Managing Director, PeopleWise.

More than just a training seminar, the workshop will enable participants to learn the competencies to change organizational culture, thus surgically altering the norms that so often cause obstructive behavior, and replacing them with constructive, positive behaviors.

To inquire or register, please call the ECOP Training and Development Department at 0906-5552995, 890-4845, 890-4847 or 899-0411 or e-mail: training@ecop.org.ph

Jobs fair at Metropolis Mall

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT job? Do you want a rewarding career?

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As Gait and Prance Events and Talents Management once again, is staging the 2nd Metropolis Mall Jobs Fair, dubbed as "Metropolis Mall Alabang Jobs Fair II" – the last leg of the Trabaho Tour 2007 to be held on June 8 and 9 at the 3rd Level, Home Center (near the chapel) of the Metropolis Mall in Alabang, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Metropolis Jobs Fair's relentless project is to provide assistance in minimizing unemployment by offering career-advancing jobs for all sorts of applicants. These jobs are not only financially rewarding, but also would make them exude enthusiasm about work.

This jobs fair is open to all applicants who are seeking new opportunities and better financial status. Participating multi-national companies will conduct initial interview and possible for on-the-spot hiring.

These companies are the following which are in-need of applicants for local employment jobs: People Support Phils.; Infonxx Phils., Inc.; and E-Telecare Global Solutions, Inc – these are call centers which have different positions open. Also joining are Citibank, N.A.; Vertex Human Resource Consulting; SPI Technologies, Inc; PDEA (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) – which is looking for hundreds of PDEA Agents; Global Excellence Human Academy, Inc; Philips Semiconductor; Maginet Phils. Inc; and Access Point Consulting, Inc.

This event is in cooperation with Manuela Corporation/Metropolis Mall; Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Public Employment and Service Office (PESO).

For more information, please call hotline numbers 255-8229 and 497-5131 or text to 0928-4957529 or email to gaitandprance @yahoo.com

PSMID's 6th midyear confab set June 6-8

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (PSMID) will hold its 6th Midyear Convention on June 6 to 8 at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. With its theme "CSI: Cebu (Challenges and Strategies in Infectious Diseases)," the convention will kick off with a half-day workshop on the do's and dont's of vaccination and infection control, followed by two days of lectures on updates and revisiting infections.

Singapore issues travel restrictions

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND Employment has warned overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and other Filipinos bound for Singapore from carrying of liquids, aerosols, and gas in line with the new guidelines set by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that Labor Attaché to Singapore Annabella M. Oliveros reported that effective last May 8, 2007, Singaporean authorities have already strictly implemented the said measures.

"Based on the report by our Labor Attaché, under the new guidelines, liquids, gas, and aerosols will only be allowed in cabin baggage if these are kept in containers with volumes not exceeding 100 milliliters each," Brion said.

He added that the containers should fit comfortably in a clear, resealable plastic bag, the volume of which must not be more than one litre. "Each traveller will only be allowed to carry one such plastic bag," Brion said, quoting Oliveros' report.

Also, he said that travellers have been advised to remove the bag from cabin baggage and present it to security personnel for visual examination.

Singapore is home to more than 52,000 documented OFWs based on the 2006 data of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, placing the country state as the seventh top destination of OFWs.

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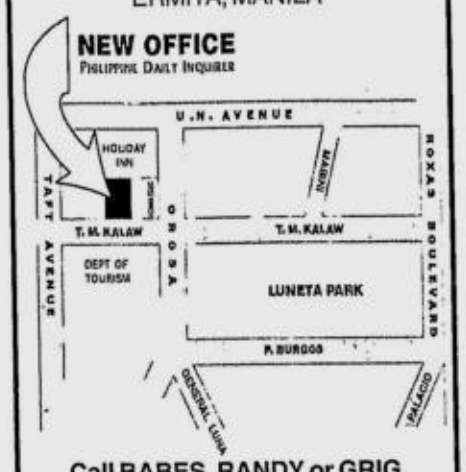

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Philippine FRSC to host 2007 IASB regional meeting

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST THE 2007 IASB Regional Accounting Standard-Setters meeting on June 13 and 14, Carlos A. Alindada, chair of the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards announced. Sir David Tweedie, Chairman of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Mr. Warren McGregor as IASB Liaison Member and representatives of national accounting standard-setters from various countries in the Asia Pacific Region will participate in this event.

A one-day seminar on June 13 entitled "Forum on Impact of IFRS: A Regional Perspective" will focus on Update on IASB work programs and technical projects, Philippine Convergence on IFRS, Accounting for Small and Medium-sized Entities and Fair Value Accounting. Implementation issues will be also addressed. The seminar will be held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

Representatives from various Philippine regulatory agencies, finance and accounting officers, and accounting practitioners are expected to attend this important forum.

Interested parties may contact the PICPA Secretariat at 723-5476; 723-0691 to 93, or e-mail us at picpaadm@pldt.net, or fax us at 723-6305; 726-9452 for other details. Participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registrants are entitled to a discount.

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- Must demonstrate functional understanding of network routing, switching, WAN and LAN technologies such as BGP, OSPF, MPLS, VPN, ATM, Leased Line and Ethernet
- Strong hands-on experience in Cisco/ Juniper network equipment (routers, switches, firewall, VPN gateway)
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- Team player with leadership qualities
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

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- Diploma or Degree in Engineering with MCSE certification
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WORKING PEOPLE

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007

E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Spot the right headhunter for you

Headhunters do not call the shots, you do

By Ma. Esther Posadas
Contributor

AS YOU PROGRESS IN YOUR career, you may start getting calls from headhunters trying to lure you into considering new job opportunities. Being a neophyte in the executive search arena, you may get the impression that headhunters call the shots and that all you need to do is comply. Truth of the matter is, you are basically responsible for your career success and finding the right ally is critical. When it comes to your life and work, you always have a choice with regard to the direction that you take and this includes choosing the right headhunter to work with.

There have been cases where potential candidates have been misled into thinking that their CV is handled confidentially only to discover later on that it had already been passed on from one person to another, or one company to another. When you entrust your CV and details to a headhunter, you are essentially entrusting your career to the company that he belongs to. Usually, the database is centralized and other people may be able to view your CV as well. For certain headhunters, however, they manage to keep a private file for your CV. For example, in certain online job search engines, you are allowed to decide whether your CV can be viewed by all recruiters or only by the ones that you select. In other words, depending on the headhunter that you choose to work with, it could spell the difference between confidentiality and exposure.

There are so-called headhunters who have gone to the extent of making up stories in order to impress or close a deal. After all, headhunting is an image business and for some people, they go to great lengths albeit unethical lengths, in order to get noticed. Do not work with anyone whose character you find questionable. In the end, you will suffer the consequences.

Following are a few tips on spotting the right headhunter to work with:

Check the company's track record. More than anything, a good or bad reputation says a lot. Aside from checking data from the Internet and other sources, you may also ask your friends who have actually tried using the same company. Find out if they were happy with the experience and if there were any disappointments. For example, the company may be the biggest in terms of size but what you really need to know is how the firm actually handles the job search, how they handle candidates and what sort of business ethics they practice.

Get to know the person handling your papers. More than anything, the person who will handle your CV can help make or break your career. Executive search is a trust business and it is important that you feel comfortable and confident to talk about your career plans with the person who processes your CV and who will eventually represent you before the client. Look for clues on any inconsistencies with your headhunter. As mentioned earlier, it is imperative that you work with an honest and competent advisor.

Understand your headhunter's business process. Headhunters have different ways of doing business. Some are very organized and structured while others may just follow whatever method is best at that moment. Usually, the person handling your papers also manages according to his personality. Try to discover how the headhunter does business and decide whether you would like your papers to be handled that way. For example, if you were a stickler for organization, you would choose to work with a headhunter who can clearly discuss with you the steps that you need to go through and perhaps apprise you on what to expect along the way.

By taking the time to get to know the headhunters that call you, future misgivings may be eliminated and you may finally enjoy the process of being matched with a potential job. As one Filipino manager once told an American executive interviewing him, "I was pirated." This led the innocent American boss to conjure images of Carribean pirates snatching his candidate. While you may enjoy a good laugh with this story, you may not fully appreciate it unless you have found the right headhunter to work with.

(The author answers life-work planning queries online. E-mail joy.posadas@gmail.com.)

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

The sign of the cross

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THERE ARE ARE SOME WHO MAKE THE HABIT OF MAKING the sign of the cross before starting a work or a task at hand. It is a practice done by Catholics invoking the name of the Blessed Trinity-Father, Son and Holy Spirit and tracing the sign of the cross from the forehead down to the stomach and crossing on both shoulders. It is a reminder for the person of his faith in God, making him aware of His presence even in the very work he is about to do. If done consciously and properly, it could make the person really "connect" with God, thus elevating his life and work at the realm of the supernatural-a human activity with a meaning and value beyond human or earthly considerations.Workplaces, especially those whirring with so much workload done by machines or human labor, could seem to be without any sign of God's presence, or of anything beyond this life. In such a situation, people could easily become like the machines they are handling, and could lose the element that makes them human-the spiritual link with God. There is need, therefore, to sustain in the human workers the essential "connection" with the Divine, so that the workplace would not become simply a mechanical production unit, but a suitable place where humanity can grow and flourish into its fullness.

The sign of the cross could therefore be a simple but powerful reminder not only for the Catholic worker but also for everyone, so that keeping alive the presence of the Divine taught by one's faith makes the workplace more human, the burden of working lighter, and toil of labor satisfying.*(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The knowledge

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AT WORK, WE TEND TO EMPHASIZE THE VALUE OF WHAT we know over the importance of how we relate to others. In fact, how we relate to others in the workplace often depends on what we know, whether it's skills or information. Thus, when a situation comes which we can not understand, we are lost—we do not know how to handle it. What are those situations? Everyday things, some big, others little, like things or records missing inexplicably, people suddenly acting irrationally, rash decisions by the bosses, etc.

Imagine yourself as one of the people Jesus is talking to in today's gospel. You are a fisherman, a shepherd, a tax collector who never heard of theology, and here is your master telling you everything that the Father has is his... and that this father will take from him what is his and declare it to you. "What the hiccups is he talking about?" you might impatiently mumble to your seatmate. You know how to make a living—how to mend nets, to shear the sheep or to balance the books—but *Ho-hum!* to the scenario "the boss" is speaking of.

In such situations, nothing of what you know will help you. But you need not be "lost" for so long, because in every situation, especially in the workplace when you interact with virtual strangers the whole day, something surpasses all knowledge and that is the knowledge that you are loved by the Father. Knowing this gives you all the confidence you need to face any situation undaunted. You will be impervious to your coworkers' evil intentions and unpleasant surprises; you will understand the reason behind unjust circumstances even when you might appear to be a victim of such. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

'How to survive bureaucracy and make me feel in control of my life?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR over 15 years now. I had been to three companies since I started working. Now, in my mid-30s, I am beginning to realize that more and more, I am losing control over my life, as I feel being victimized by office bureaucracy, unfair policies and bosses who seem to take advantage of superior-subordinate relationships.

On one hand, I want to be free from the bureaucratic maze in the corporate world. On the other hand, I have no other means of livelihood, as I have not tried being in business or doing something else other than being an employee.

Can you give me some tips on how to survive the bureaucracy and feel more in control of my own life? I feel being victimized and taken advantage of.

Helpless

The way you wrote your letter didn't seem to picture you as helpless. I had to edit out several portions to make your letter more printable. But you seem to have very strong feelings, especially about losing control and being victimized.

I think it was the ancient philosopher Epictetus who wrote in his "Discourses" that "no man is free who is not master of himself."

Losing control

I think the key word in your case is CONTROL. If you do not control your life, perhaps somebody or something is manipulating you and you can be VICTIMIZED in many ways. I will have to agree with your thinking that somebody who is running his or her life according to the dictates of others is not in control and is being victimized.

For now, however, let me say that generally one cannot be victimized unless he or she allows himself or herself to be victimized. In fact, it could be that people victimize their own selves in many ways, as they live their lives everyday. You will feel victimized if your life is not working the way you want it.

Whether we like it or not, the truth is that there are millions of people who allow themselves to be dominated, manipulated and pushed around. These are the people who often feel that they are not strong or smart enough to be in charge of their lives. Instead of pulling their own strings, they would rather hand over their own strings to someone stronger or smarter.

But, let's also examine the institution you complain of—the corporation.

The corporation as controller

To put it bluntly, business institutions like the corporation exist for only one reason—to make profits. They are built to perpetuate themselves in order to make more money for those who invested in making products and delivering services. Certainly, they are not in business for charity—even if some pretend to be.

If you think that the corporation owes you some amount of loyalty because you gave it your best, think again—you might be simply disillusioned.

Here's the truth—and I know that people-oriented CEOs will cry to high heavens and censure me for what I will say next.

Corporations will tend to pay you for your services until you can no longer work the way they expect you to, and then they will look for the most inexpensive way to dismiss you. The moment you join any of these institutions as an employee, this is the implied agreement. In spite of retirement or pension plans and other benefits that can cushion the impact of your dismissal, the fact remains that when you are no longer needed, they will find the cheapest way to dispose of you.

Harsh reality

I am not complaining of the way corporations are. I spent the best years of my life helping run some of these institutions. Corporations are not human beings—employees are. Businesses operate the way they just do. That is the reality and there's no changing that.

You don't have to be upset with the way businesses operate. At the same time, you do not have to enslave yourself and over-commit yourself to the corporation, to the detriment of your family relationship and to utter neglect of your own personal being. If you work hard enough, get paid enough, and after long years of service you get a gold watch when you retire, or some token of appreciation, I don't think you should feel victimized.

How you get victimized

Here are a number of ways one can easily get victimized by business institutions. As you will notice, these are things that victims do, not what the "victimizer" does.

- Thinking that the corporation is human and can't function without you, so you devote your whole time and life to it
- Swearing your loyalty or undying allegiance to your company and feeling that your obligation to the corporation is greater than your obligation to yourself and your family
- Expecting that the corporation will take care of your every need and attend to these needs expeditiously
- Failing to understand the bureaucracy and expecting efficiency, logic and sense of urgency

How not to be victimized

It is difficult to untangle oneself from slavery and victimization, but just the same, here are some suggestions that can help you regain control of your life and unshackle yourself from victimization:

- Assess your priorities in life, hoping that when you are through with your list, you find yourself, then your family, on top of your list
- Shift your beliefs about the corporation, be realistic about what I said here earlier, and find out if you want to continue "enslaving" yourself
- Have more quiet time for yourself and opportunities to do things that are important to you, even if you have to take more leaves of absence from work
- Learn ways to control your mind, especially in order to relieve yourself of tensions brought about by "institutional slavery" (don't tell anyone about your new mindset—you could lose your job fast)
- Delete the word "retirement" from your vocabulary, and promise yourself that you will continue to do what you love to do even after you leave your job
- If you truly hate what's happening to you now, look for alternatives to working in a corporation, learn what else to do aside from just being an employee
- Stop using the usual excuse, "I have a responsibility to."
- Once in a while, keep away from your watch or calendar and avoid the compulsion to run your life against the clock. In my case, I have mastered the art of eating, sleeping, waking, writing, talking, etc. as I please, not when I am supposed to
- Finally, live your life as if you only have six months to live. This will compel you to do the things you love to do—not the things that you are supposed to do

When you are able to do all these things, you will feel a new sense of freedom. However, perhaps, this advice is not for the faint of heart, or for those who need somebody "stronger" or "smarter" to run their lives. As for me, I have learned to believe what Honore de Balzac says, "Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies."

I have learned to refuse to allow pygmies to run my own life. I hope you, too, can.

(The author is a past president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. He is the President & CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He can be reached at ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com)

Junior INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 62

Kids' Choice Awards: The Twentieth Time Around

By Alexia Bejasa

10 years old

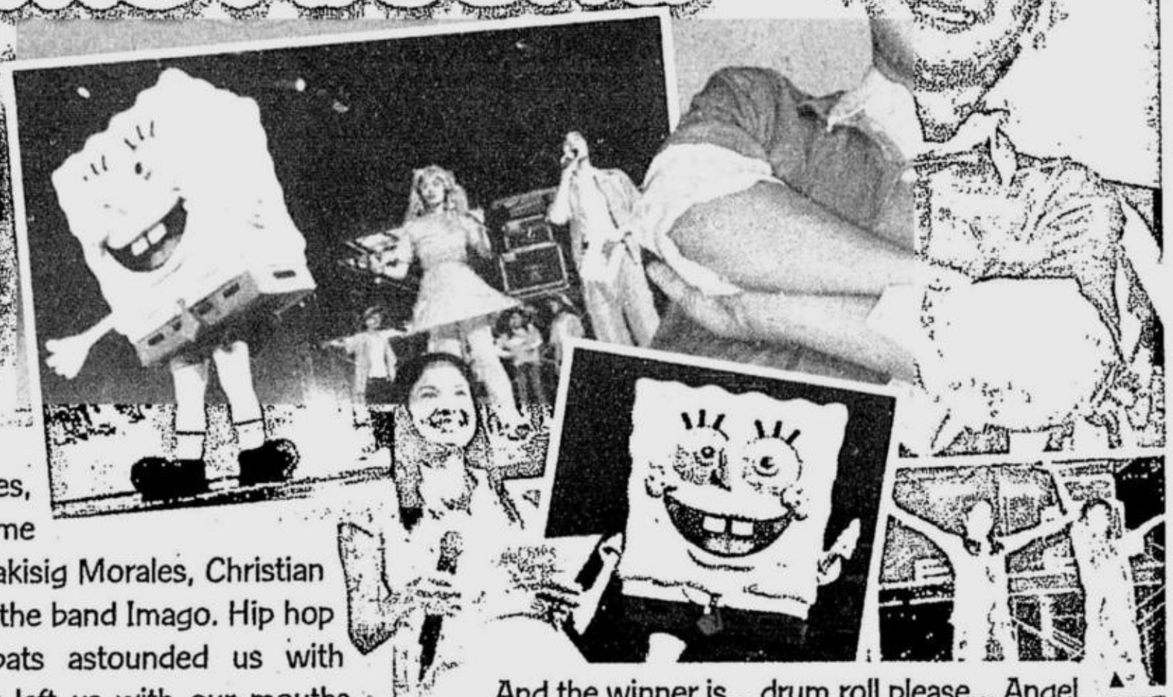
Parañaque City

JI SNOOPS REPORT

WHAT'S BEEN AROUND FOR twenty years, promotes kid power, and overflows with slime?

It's the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards! The Kids' Choice Awards (KCA) gives kids a chance to vote for their favorite movie and television personalities. Although the actual awarding ceremonies happen in the US, Filipino kids get to take a sneak peek at the results in a fun-filled preview party.

The JI Snoops got a chance to attend this year's preview party on May 26 at the Aliw Theatre. And boy, did we have fun!



There were games, and awesome performances by Makisig Morales, Christian Bautista, and Aia of the band Imago. Hip hop dancers and acrobats astounded us with amazing stunts that left us with our mouths open. Spongebob Squarepants and Dora the Explorer were also there to meet everyone.

Hosts Sam Concepcion and Nickie of Nickelodeon familiarized us with the KCA categories and nominees. But, what we were all waiting for was the Pinoy Wannabe Award.

Would it be Asia's Pop Sensation Christian Bautista, Makisig "Super Inggo" Morales, award-winning actor John Lloyd Cruz, kick-butt star Angel Locsin, or Broadway celebrity Lea Salonga?

And the winner is... drum roll please... Angel Locsin! Unfortunately, Angel couldn't be there. Makisig gamely took her place at the winner's chair, and as tradition dictated, he got slimed! He seemed to really enjoy it as a strange-looking weird contraption poured green gooey slime all over him.

After the show, we got a chance to chat with Makisig. He said that though he didn't win this year's award, he felt happy because a lot of kids supported him.

The whole party was a blast, and I'm surely looking forward to next year's KCA party!

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS AND RUTH NAVARRA

Think Out Loud!

Who is your idol?

I like Sam Concepcion because he's a great singer.—**Erwin Jay Grufo**, 11, Makati City

My idol is Superman because he's a nice person and he has X-ray vision.—**Emmanuel Paloma**, 7, Makati City

Regine Velasquez, because she is a very good singer.—**Joven Vecino**, 9, Makati

I like Mikaela Fudolig because she's very smart.—**Alna Marie Bacudio**, 10, Malate City

My idol is Angel Locsin. I find her beautiful and I watch her every day on television.—**Micah Maria Santos**, 11, Bulacan

Kim Chiu because she's a good actress and she's cute.—**Eloisa Luz Grayda**, 10, Quezon City

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL! This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

IT'S DAD'S DAY!

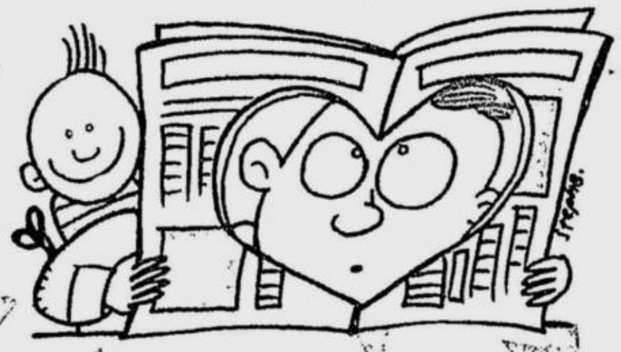
FATHER'S DAY IS COMING UP, AND WE'RE not about to forget that special guy who protects us and gives us strength and confidence.

Take part in our special tribute to fathers! Email **ji@inquirer.com.ph** about a special moment you shared with your dad. It can be a day or a few seconds of bonding, sharing interests, or simply letting each other know how important you are to one another.

Don't forget to attach a photo of you and your dad!

If we choose you for our THINK OUT LOUD section, you will win 6 Glorietta MOVIE TICKETS for you and your family!

Email us now! Deadline for submission is June 3, Sunday.



Letter

DEAR JI,

I JUST LOVE JUNIOR INQUIRER! JI HAS TAUGHT ME THAT BEING A KID IS NOT ONLY ABOUT PLAYING AND DOING YOUR OWN THING. JI HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE INVOLVED IN MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY AND THE WORLD, JUST BY SIMPLY BEING UPDATED ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND ME.

THANKS JI!

YOUR FAN,
MAXINE ANNE D. SABANDAL, 10 YEARS OLD
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

Thanks Maxine! We hope you let us know if there are topics you'd like to see in JI. Please call Ate Dianne Villafuerte at 897-8808 local 340 to find out how you can claim our thank you gift.

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THE JUNIOR INQUIRER is published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer on each Sunday of the month.

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

Office address: Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, Philippines

Telephone number: 897-8808 loc. 340 (Editorial) and 534 (Sales).

Snail mail: P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines.

2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

What do you know about JI readers? Do you want to write to our Snoopy? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? Join our yahoogroup! Just send a blank email to jireaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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I like Sam concepcion because [illegible] singer [illegible] Gauro [illegible] Makati city

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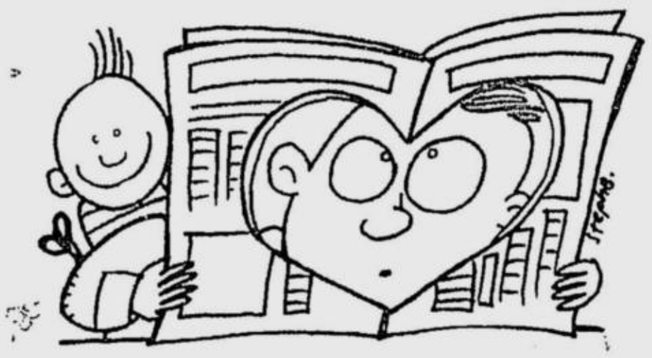

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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

Zamboanga City, PHILIPPINES

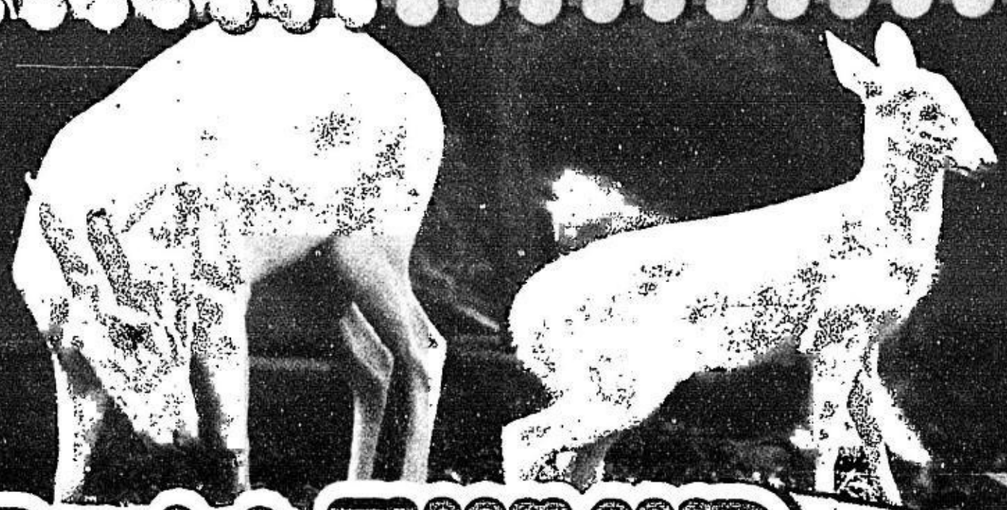
Sea veggies

IT may not look that appetizing, but what you see on this makeshift grill (made from the cover of an electric fan) is very expensive seafood! A kilo of fresh sea cucumber commands a price of P800 to P1,000 in Zamboanga City. Once dried, the price can get as high as P2,000 a kilo. **JULIE S. ALIPALA/ INQUIRER MINDANAO**

Sichuan, CHINA

Opera, anyone?

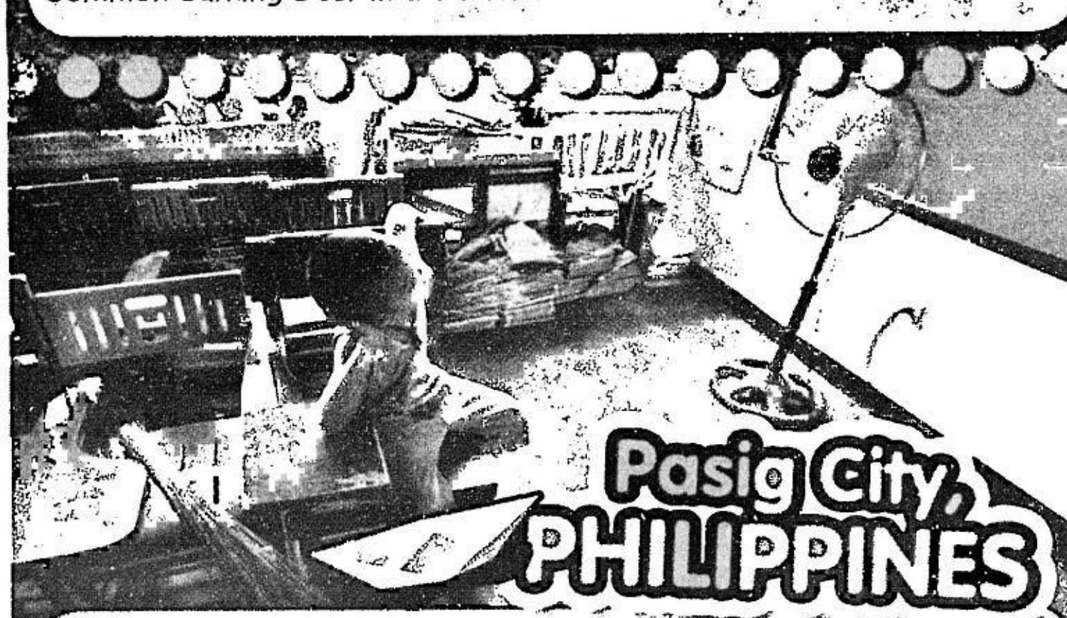
MEET the students of the Suining Junior Sichuan Opera School, the first school of its kind in China. The opera school now has more than 300 students. **Reuters**



Bangkok, THAILAND

Rudolph's relatives?

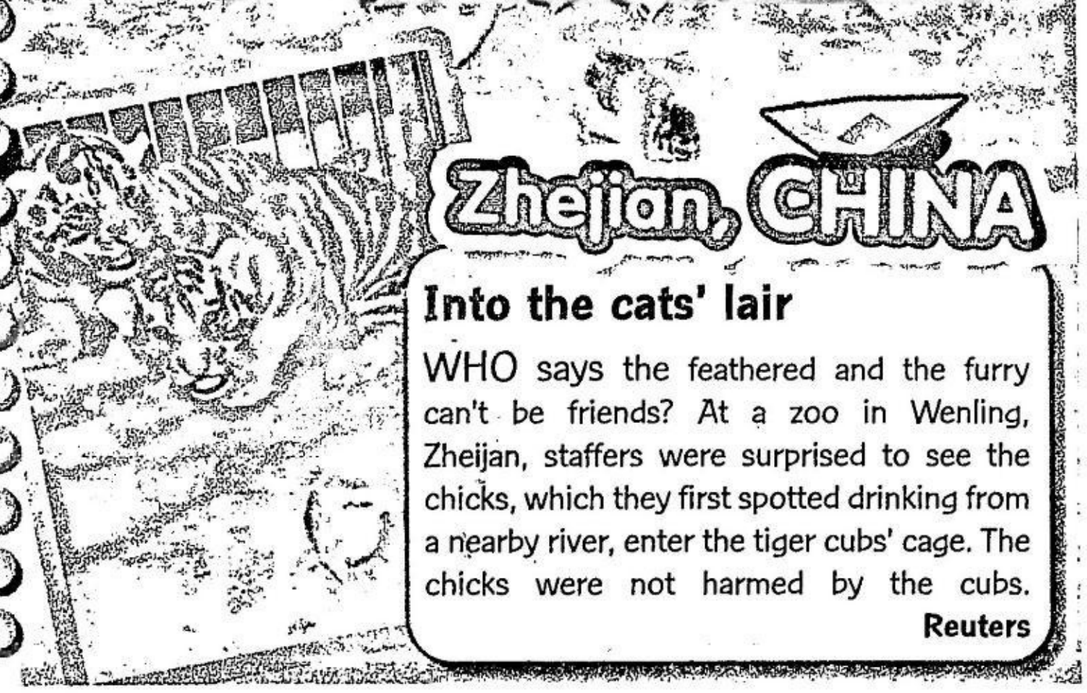
NOT quite. Their noses are pink, and they're not reindeer. These deer, which can be found at the Dusit Zoo in Bangkok, are the only two Albino Common Barking Deer in the world. **AP**



Pasig City, PHILIPPINES

No easy task

THIS student volunteer for Brigada Eskwela takes a break from his cleaning duties at the Oranbo Elementary School. Through this program initiated by the Department of Education, students, parents and the community help clean and make minor repairs in their schools. **RAFFY LERMA**



Zhejian, CHINA

Into the cats' lair

WHO says the feathered and the furry can't be friends? At a zoo in Wenling, Zheijan, staffers were surprised to see the chicks, which they first spotted drinking from a nearby river, enter the tiger cubs' cage. The chicks were not harmed by the cubs. **Reuters**

Read along with Usy

By Lawrence de Guzman

THE RAINY SEASON IS HERE again, and high on our list of rainy day activities is curling up with a good book. You may think video games, television and the Internet provide a lot of entertainment, but nothing beats being whisked away to imaginary worlds through books.

And we're not the only ones who feel that way.

Mikaela Irene Fudolig, a young achiever who made history by graduating summa cum laude from the University of the Philippines Diliman at 16, loves reading too.

"It is through reading that I get to use my imagination and go to many different places," said Mikaela.

Her love for reading started when she was young. "My mother taught me reading by posting flash cards," said Mikaela. "By two and a half years old, I was able to read in Filipino and at three, I started reading in English," she added.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

"I started with 'Planetang Pakaskas,' 'Pamilyang Ismid,' The Babysitters Club and Nancy Drew," she revealed. She also said she is now eager to finish J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" in time for the release of the next Potter book.

Mikaela had the chance to share this love for books with other kids when she was invited to become a storyteller in Inquirer's Read-Along program. The program aims to teach kids to love reading by gathering children aged 7 to 13 for a story-reading session with celebrities and role models. It was launched on May 13, with singer-actress Manilyn Reynes handling the first storytelling session.

Mikaela read Trina Paulus' "Hope for the Flowers," a book that she finds very inspiring. "The story shows that there are many ways by which we can achieve great things," she said.

Charlyn Chua, the vice president of Alitaptap Storytellers Philippines, a volunteer group that also promotes reading, read "The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig," a different version of a well-known fable for children.

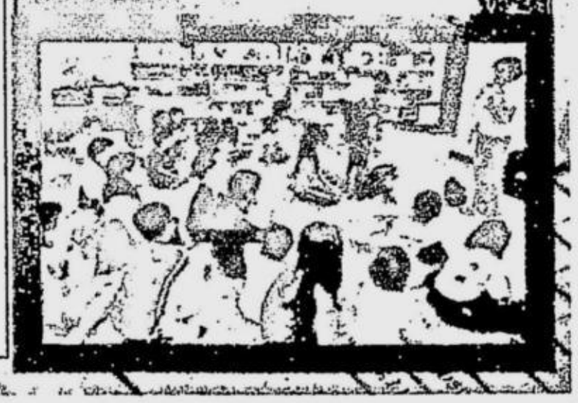
Scholastic Inc., a publishing house that supports the program, also gave away books to the child participants.

"We learned a lot and enjoyed the session," said 9-year-old Janela de la Cruz of the first session. She came all the way from Antipolo with her 12-year-old sister, Marie Jo. "We came because we love reading and listening to stories," she said.

Edwin Sacramed, 42, brought his 8-year-old son Mark Gregor, who usually spends Saturday mornings with his PlayStation. "I want my son to develop the habit of reading. I also want him to meet new friends," he said.

The next Inquirer Read-Along will be on June 16 with teen star Sam Concepcion, and on June 30 with broadcast journalist Christine Bersola-Babao.

If you're interested in joining, you may contact Ellan Caparros or Gilly Rafran at 897-8808 local 329.



Read along with Usy

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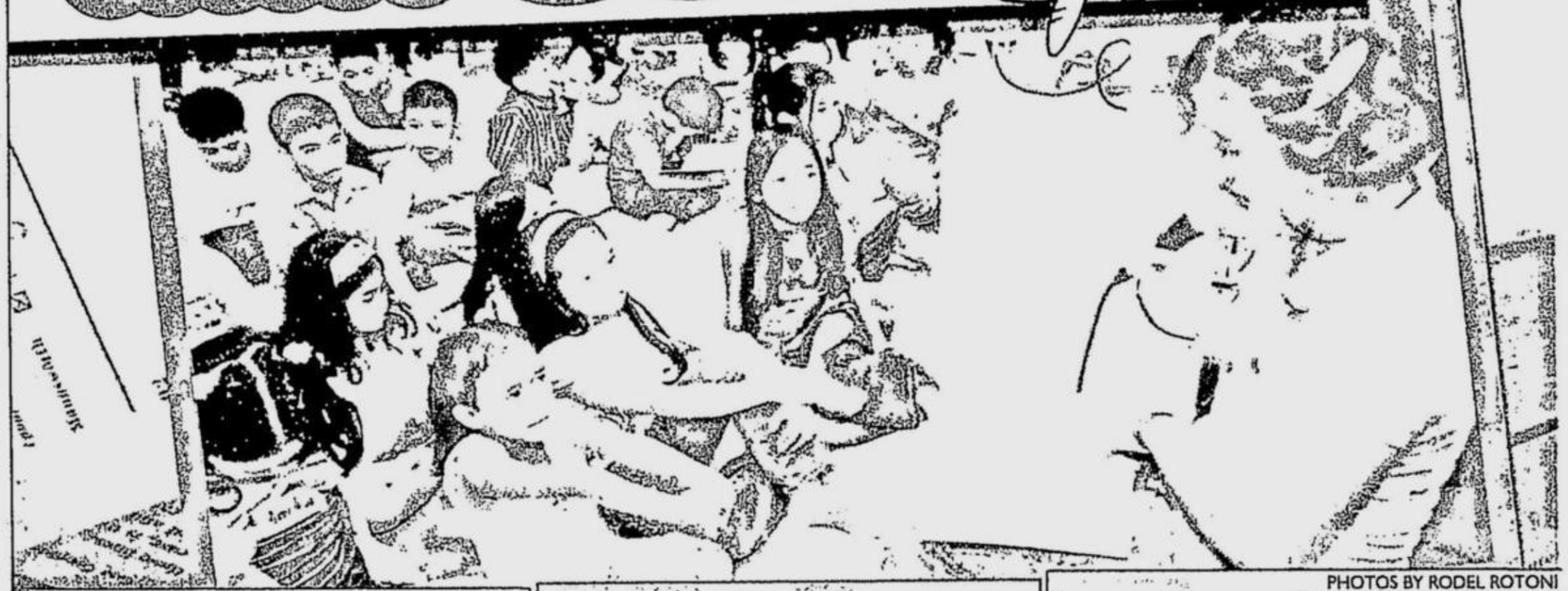

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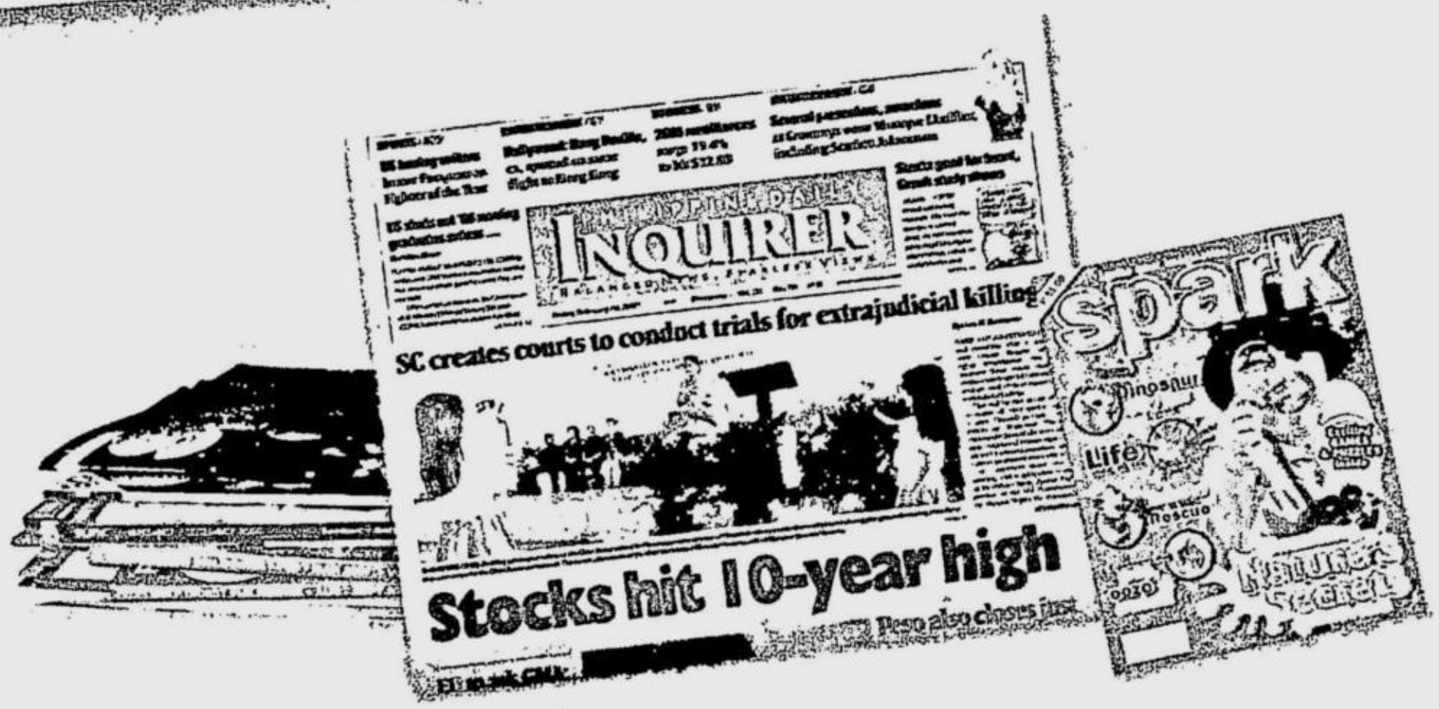

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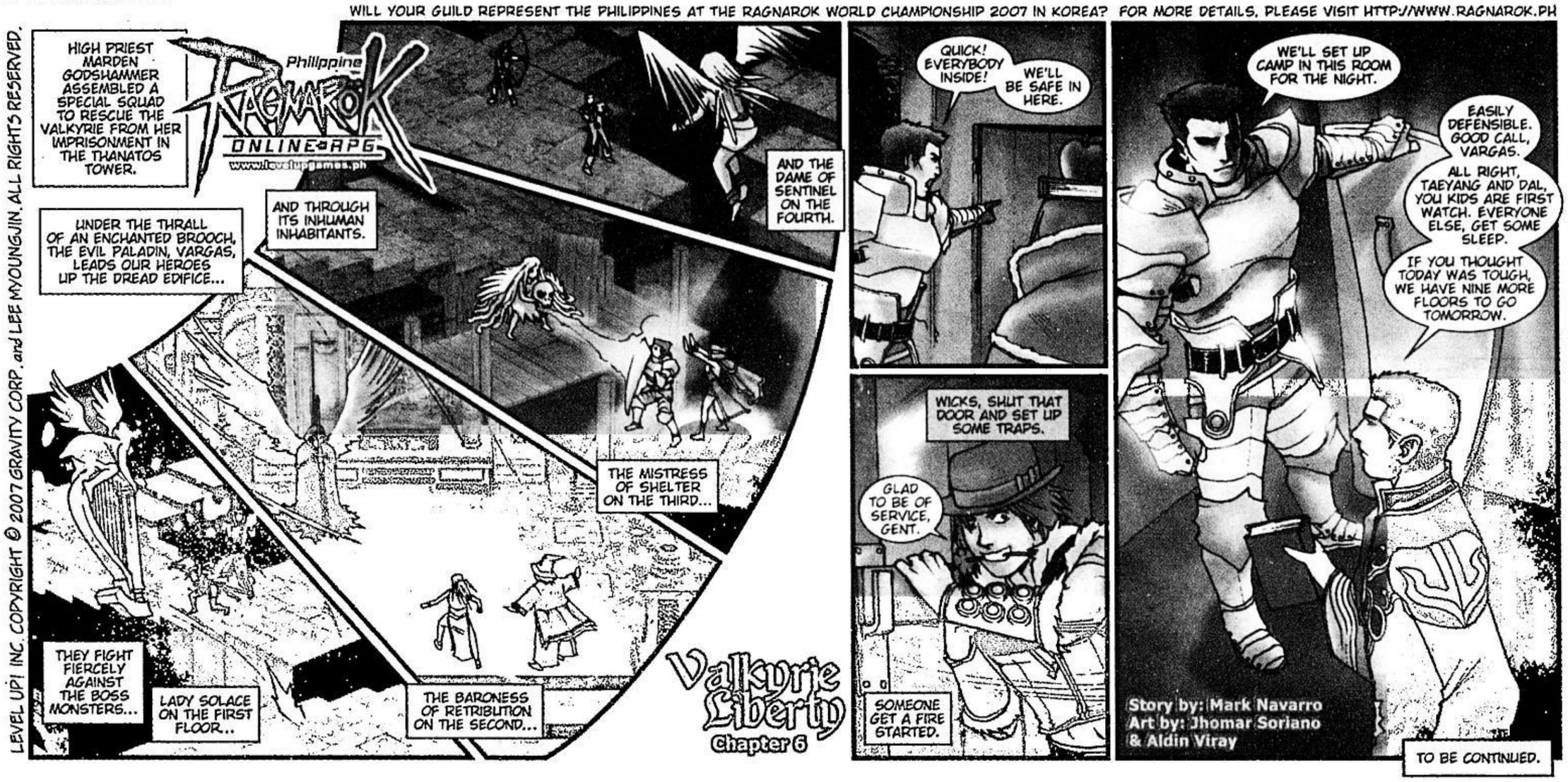

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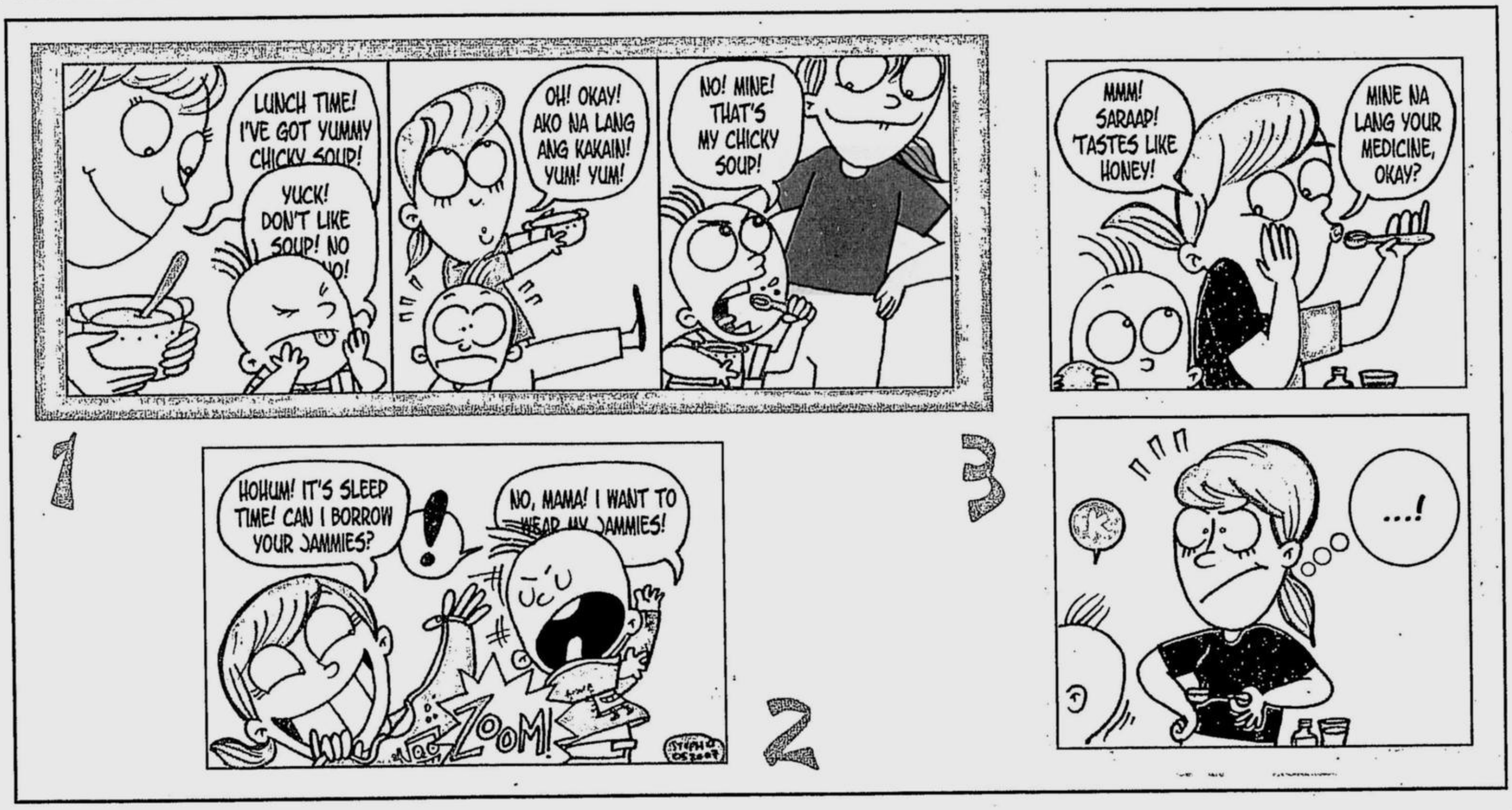

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June 3, 2007

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David Guerrero with Kimi & Mo

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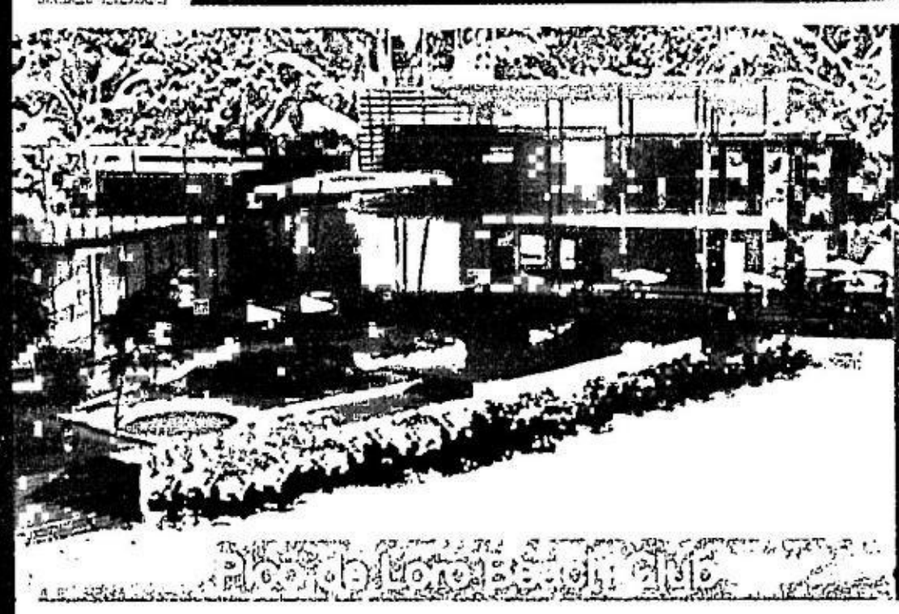

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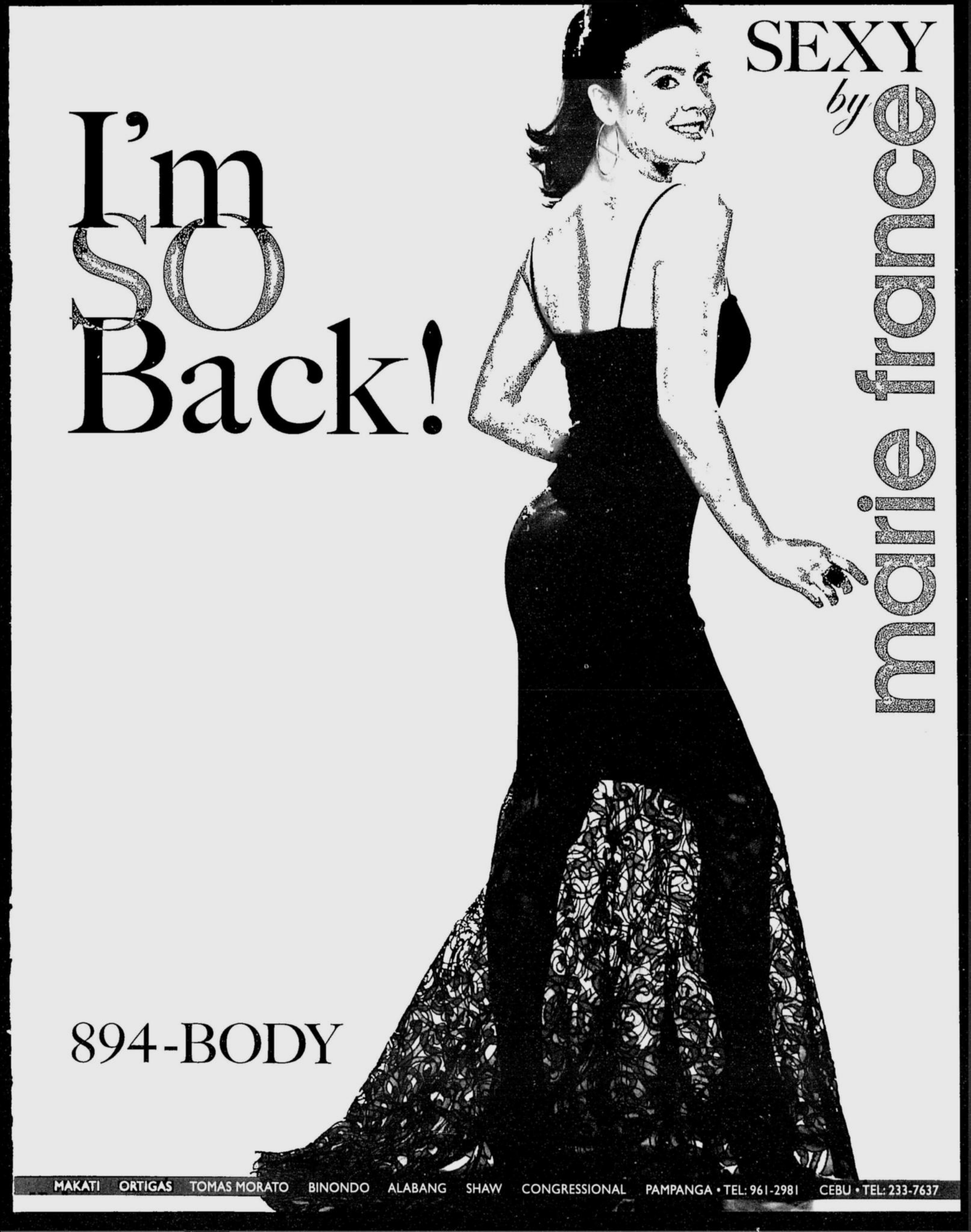
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In heaven there is NO BEER

Beer Paradise is no heaven, that's why they have a variety of world-famous ales and pilsen

Text and photos by Margaux Salcedo

VARIETY is a characteristic that definitely describes Philippine cuisine. We have several variations of the *kilawin* (ceviche), several variations of the adobo, several kinds of *bagoong* (shrimp or fish paste), and several kinds of *achara* (pickled vegetables).

But there's one item where we miss out on variety, and that's beer. Although widely consumed in this country, beer appears to be under-appreciated. There is an abundance of San Mig Light, Pale Pilsen or Beer na Beer, but the consumers' choices for this beverage run the gamut only from A to C. It would take a hop to maybe three bars to find one that offers Cerveza Negra.

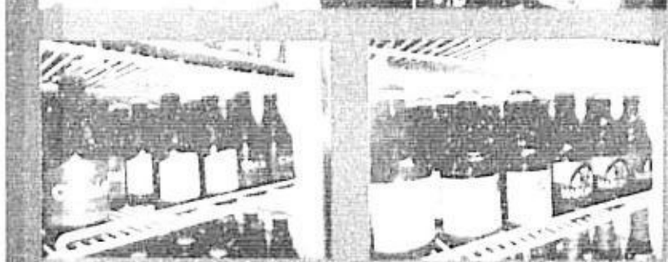
So for the dark beer consumers, the hunt may get quite frustrating. Having to fly to Hong Kong just to appreciate a good draught does not paint a picture of a good beer industry.

Fortunately, a Belgian dude named Danny and his friends saw this miserable state and introduced a little resto-bar called Beer Paradise that offers enough beer choices to make a beer drinker happy. Still no Guinness Draught, unfortunately, but they more than make up for it with other selections.

The Paradise offers abbey beers, pale pilsen, amber beers, strong beers, fruit beers, even Trappist monk beers. I am no beer connoisseur, as I myself grew up on just pale and only had my first taste of dark beer in Angel's Breath in The Village in 2004, but here's a basic low-down for those who have not heard of anything outside of Pale and Light . (Connoisseurs, please feel free to send additional info to margauxlicious.blogspot.com):

There is ale, which is brewed with top-fermenting yeasts at temperatures between 15 and 24 °C (60 and 75 °F), resulting in beer with a slightly fuller body than lager. And there is lager, which is brewed with bottom-fermenting yeast at temperatures between 7-12 °C (45-55 °F) for its primary fermentation or "the fermentation phase," and then 0-4 °C (32-40 °F) for its secondary fermentation or "the lagering phase." This results in a "crisper" tasting beer.

Then there is pale lager and dark lager. (Pilsen is actually a town in the Czech Republic known for brewing the pale lager since 1842, hence the term Pale Pilsen.) Pale lager is light in color and high in carbonation, with a strong hop flavor and an alcohol volume content of around five percent. Dark beers use dark or patent malts that have been roasted longer or use roasted unmalted barley; other dark beers, not as good, just use colorants such as caramel.



Spoiled for choice: Selection at Beer Paradise

Draught beer is beer that is served from a pressurized keg which produces those fine bubbles that give you that creamy mouthfeel. If you want to try draught beer, you can visit Grappa's in Greenbelt or on Reposo. For something that resembles draught beer, Guinness was brilliant enough to create a beer widget in the 80s, which allows that creamy mouthfeel to be achieved even from canned Guinness by means of a pressurized ball inside the can, hence the label on the can that reads Guinness Draught. Of course it's not as good as the real thing.

Beer Paradise goes the extra mile and also offers Trappist beers. There are only six Trappist breweries in the world, and only five now exist, all in Belgium, and no other breweries are entitled to apply that name to their product. These are Westmalle, Westvleteren, Chimay, Rochefort, Orval and Achel. All the beers from here are top-fermenting, relatively strong ales.

Beer Paradise, according to Danny, is the exclusive distributor of Chimay in the Philippines, and proudly offers Chimay Rouge and Chimay Bleu. You appreciate this in a goblet-shaped glass .

Unfortunately, the prices at Paradise are also world-class (read: steep). A Chimay goes for around P245. But if you take your beer seriously, in a country where you can hardly find any Trappist monk ale, it's worth every sip!

Beer Paradise also offers Stella Artois, one of the more famous Belgian lagers; Lucifer, a devilishly strong Belgian pale ale; Kasteel, a Belgian beer that we would call *traidor* (traitor) because it is sweet yet creepingly strong, and, of course, Guinness, among their many selections of beer.

So for those of you who have had nothing but San Mig Light in the past couple of years, take a break and try out these variations. Yes, there are other brands out there! •

Beer Paradise is located on Polaris Street in Makati, near Jupiter and Makati Avenue

By Regina Layug

The Ties that Bind

THE 1970s saw a construction boom in Saudi Arabia that had skilled Filipino workers making their way to the Middle East to support families in the Philippines. My father was among them. I was one when he left in 1982.

For five years, our only contact was letters and voice tapes. I remember my mother typing out her letters to him, or the two of us shutting ourselves in our room with the tape recorder. Mom would recount stories and I would sing, our voices bridging the miles between us. I was too young to really feel my father's absence, especially since I was surrounded by loving grandparents and Mom's doting siblings, but I do remember wondering if Dad rode camels and lived in a tent.

Anna Cemine, a 26-year-old housewife and expectant mother, wasn't even born when her father left for Riyadh. Like me, she grew up knowing her father mainly through letters and phone calls. Her father would come home at least twice a year to visit.

Ruben Canlas Jr., a knowledge consultant based in Ortigas, was in second year high school when his father first left to work for a construction firm for over 15 years. His father came home every two or three years, so voice tapes became his surrogate family. The tapes involved the whole barrio in their town in Pampanga. "We'd pop in a 120-minute cassette and record messages, songs, and whatever it was we felt like recording. The neighbors would come to sing as well and recount what was happening in the barrio."

But unlike Ruben who eventually got used to living

apart from his father, other children are not as resilient. Matt Mercado, now 10, was only four when his father left to work in Saipan. The older man could only manage a vacation home every two years and Matt's mother, Lutchie, observed that the boy was not comfortable around his father despite regular phone calls and letters.

Fortunately, many OFWs in the Middle East were allowed to bring their families with them. Mom and I joined Daddy in 1987. Anna, her two sisters, and their mother left for Riyadh in 1993. Thus started a normal family life for us.

I spent nine years of my childhood in Riyadh, where my brother was born in 1990, just four days before the Gulf War. Ours was a close-knit family. We went to a small Filipino school with less than a thousand students. Weekends were spent at home or in the mall, and we'd have friends over for parties and sleepovers.

We returned to Manila for good in 1996. Perhaps it was because of our nine years together that I found it more difficult to adjust to our new life. Thankfully, Dad's managerial position allowed him to come home once or

Thanks to e-mail, mobile phones and texting, long-distance fathering among overseas Filipino workers has become easier

twice a year. Later, he sent us a fax machine so we could easily send letters. He also called once a week.

I remember how difficult it was. We not only had to adjust to life without my father, but also to life in Manila, and to our new schools. My grades suffered. My brother didn't understand why Daddy was away. Dad's visits were a very emotional time for us. His arrival would be cause for much elation while his departure would leave us depressed.

Over time, we became accustomed to the distance, and things became easier. We started using e-mail when I was in college, and our correspondence became more regular. The advent of mobile phones and text messaging made communication more constant and more personal.

Such regular contacts prevented what would have been an awkward relationship with an absentee parent.

Roshel Liwanag, 30, a programmer in Ortigas, was 6 when her father, an aluminum cutter, left the country to work in the Middle East from 1983 to 2005. Since he was home only every two years, Roshel became closer to her mother. "I wasn't used to telling him about the things going on in my life," she admits. When he came home for good, "it was difficult, because we didn't know how to deal with each other. We didn't know each other's attitudes, likes and dislikes."

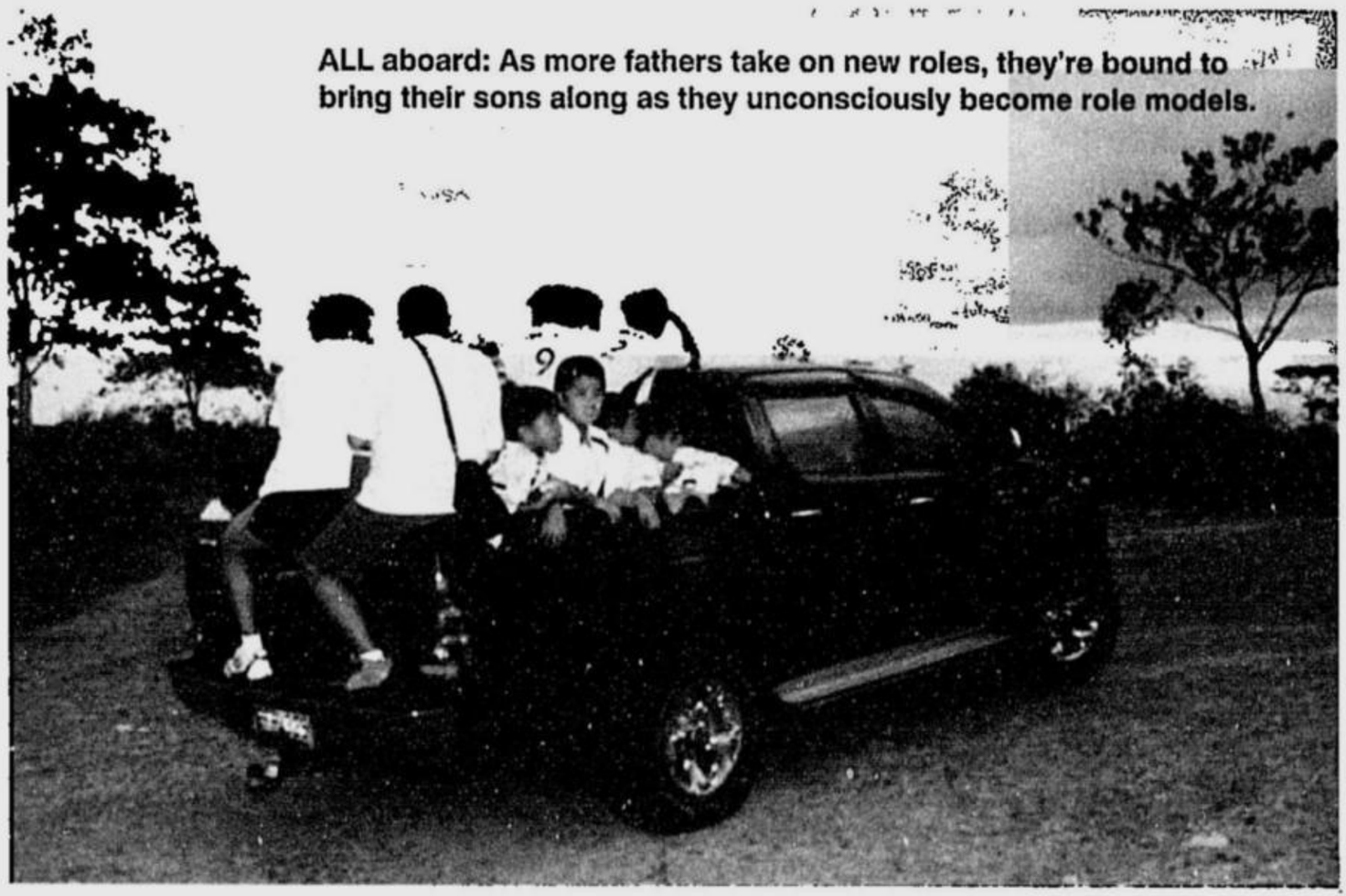
Such cases are becoming rare these days, as telecom companies seize on a captive market. Latest market reports show that Globe's total revenues from international long distance services in 2006 was P13.9 billion, P400 million more than its 2005 revenue from the same services. A Nielsen Media Index OFW survey meanwhile quantified that 65.8 percent of Filipinos working abroad communicated via landline in 2006, while 83.2 percent used their mobile phones. More than half (or 52.9 percent) of OFWs communicate at least once a week, the same survey noted.

Indeed, thanks to mobile phones, OFW fathers are no longer strangers to their children. Fathering has become just a text message or a phone call away. •

By M. L. Tan

Rethinking Fatherhood

Women's overseas work, gay couples and live-in partnerships are changing the country's more traditional concept of fathering



ALL aboard: As more fathers take on new roles, they're bound to bring their sons along as they unconsciously become role models.

Andrew Chinapala

IN the last 50 years or so, more Filipino women have taken up paid work outside the home. In factories and in offices, women's rigid work schedules have kept them out of their homes most of the day. Very few work places have provisions for child care.

Some of the women are fortunate enough to be able to return home at the end of the day. Many others, however, have to content themselves with regular phone calls or text messages as overseas Filipino workers (OFW) are separated by distance from their families. This is true as well of rural women who migrate to big cities to work as domestics or as factory and office workers. The rise of export processing and industrial zones, with their distinct preference for women workers, have also made stay-at-home mothers a rarity these days.

Traditionally, when women leave home, the children are left with a network of other female caregivers, an assortment of caring aunts, sisters or grandmothers. But many of these women have themselves taken up work outside the home. It has become inevitable then for men to take on the domestic chores, including childcare, sometimes on a full-time basis, especially if their wives work overseas.

This has not been easy, given the culture in which most Filipino men have been raised. Despite the multiple roles that many women have assumed in recent years, a lot of families continue to cling to stereotyped gender roles where sons are privileged and exempted from domestic chores. As adults suddenly forced into househusband roles, they often find themselves helpless, unable to handle the work they've traditionally dismissed as "feminine."

On the other hand, as we see more househusbands emerging, there will also be more sons who will have as role model some kind of New Age father, one who is not embarrassed to do the cooking, laundry, cleaning and child-rearing around the home. It seems logical to think that as more men take on these domestic roles, they might actually become more patient and nurturing as well, and will pass on these character traits to both their daughters and sons. At present, *tiis*, fortitude, and in some cases, stoic patience—being able to take stress silently and without complaining—have been identified mainly with mothers; it shouldn't take long before that virtue becomes gender-neutral.

Besides the househusbands who take up the roles of an absent wife, there's another "breed" of Filipino fathers that's emerging, spurred by a different set of circumstances from those just described. These are the men who adopt children.

There are "subsets" here. First, even without divorce, more Filipino women are now leaving their husbands and taking their children with them. Many will eventually end up with a new partner, who then becomes a stepfather to her children. There are tensions in this stepfather role similar to those that we find with stepmothers. There are, as well, many disturbing reports of stepfathers who sexually abuse their stepchildren.

But I suspect that for each abusive or neglectful stepfather, there are many more loving ones who raise their stepchildren without distinguishing them from their own natural children. I know one government clerk getting the minimum wage who took in a woman with three children from different fathers. Eventually, they had one more child together. I've talked with the stepchildren and they say they have never felt that they were "second-class" children.

Still another intriguing phenomenon has been the emergence of gay men—either singly or in couples—adopting children, usually from poor families. Preferring to keep a low profile because of possible attacks from conservatives, these gay adoptive fathers do a very good job raising children.

All these new forms of "*tatay*-hood" are challenges to society, not just in terms of parenting techniques but in the way they are forcing us to rethink fathering. In a way, we are witnessing a massive social experiment around parenting that's been forced upon us by economic and social circumstances. We are beginning to see the results, as the children of these alternative fathers come of age and begin to raise their own families. We don't hear their voices yet, but with time, as more of them speak out, I am certain we will find many heartwarming success stories. •

By Gibbs Cadiz

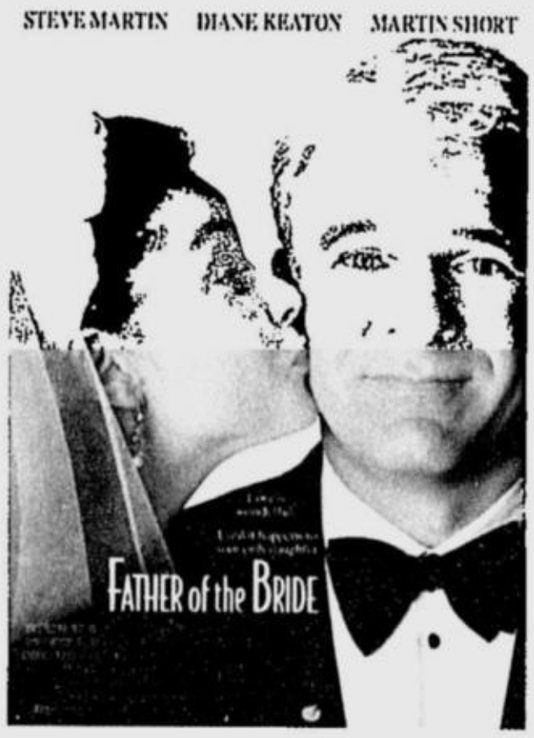
Father Figures

Ten great movies, ten different takes on paterfamilias

1. **Affliction.** Paul Schrader's stunning exploration of family dysfunction, about a taciturn middle-aged man unable to move beyond the menacing shadow of his abusive, violent father. Nick Nolte and James Coburn act up a storm in this powerful drama.

2. **Cape Fear.** The Martin Scorsese remake starring Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange and Juliette Lewis offers a harrowing picture of a family man trying to protect his wife and rebellious daughter from a vengeful psychopath. Terrific physical tension, as opposed to the more sinister, Hitchcockian original that starred Gregory Peck and Robert Mitchum.

3. **Dad.** Heartfelt drama about a busy executive (Ted Danson) coming home to take care of sickly parents, while also sorting out tangled relations with his distant son (Ethan Hawke). Jack Lemmon as the patriarch is excellent, playing off beautifully with Danson, Hawke and Olympia Dukakis as his wife. Based on the acclaimed novel by William Wharton.



4. **Father of the Bride.** Steve Martin's ruefully funny turn as the befuddled father coming to terms with his daughter's impending wedding is the best reason to see this warm Disney remake. But if it's old-fashioned family nostalgia you want, check out the original movie with Spencer Tracy and a young, very beautiful Elizabeth Taylor as his daughter. The scene where he first sees her in a wedding dress remains a priceless shot.

5. **The Godfather.** Simply the best film there is on fathers and sons living with family legacies marked by pride and perdition. Benevolence, deceit, loyalty and tragedy come to the fore as the reluctant son (Al Pacino) ponders whether to take the reins of the shadowy empire his father (Marlon Brando) has left him. Epic, operatic, Francis Ford Coppola's film is both an ode to family and a dirge over the bloody lengths to which some would go to protect it.

6. **Guess Who s Coming to Dinner?** Spencer Tracy's last film has him playing an irascible WASP father who must learn to overcome his prejudices when his daughter comes home with a black man for a fiancé. This movie tackles the issue of racism with cold logic, but the emotions run true thanks to the powerhouse cast, which includes Katharine Hepburn, Sidney Poitier and Katharine Houghton.

7. **Kramer vs. Kramer.** Meryl Streep leaves Dustin Hoffman to take care of their young son, then reappears to get the boy back. Robert Benton's exceptionally sensitive film (winner of five Oscars including the 1979 Best Picture) treats its subjects with sympathy and grace, allowing the material to transcend its contours as a simple child custody fight to one that examines the rigors of marriage, parenthood and careers in contemporary society.

8. **Late Spring.** Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu's quiet, delicate tale of a widowed father trying to marry off his only daughter touches on many issues: guilt, dependence, obligation, conformity and tradition, social flux. The triumph of this film is how it looks at these complex realities of post-war Japanese society and frames the father-daughter dynamic with compassionate sobriety and exactitude. An unconditional masterpiece.

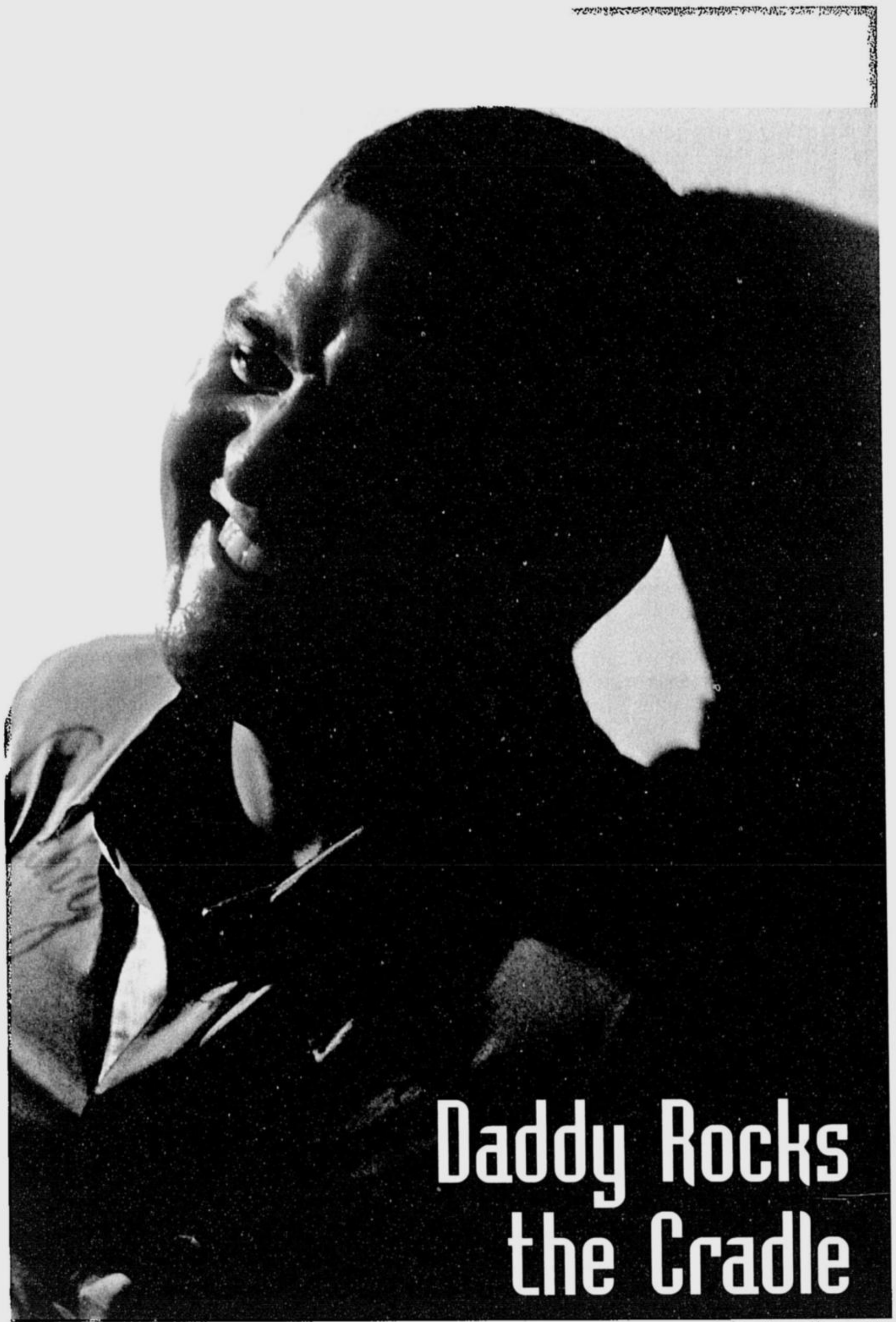
9. **The Son's Room.** A Cannes Film Festival winner, Nanni Moretti's illuminating film traces the disintegration of an Italian middle-class family devastated by the accidental death of a young son. As the father tries to come to grips with the loss, the quotidian details of his family life emerge with poignant clarity and purposefulness, leading to the possibility of healing.

10. **To Kill a Mockingbird.** Gregory Peck embodies the stalwart goodness, decency and bravery of fathers in this classic film based on Harper Lee's novel. Playing a lawyer who defends a black man against a small town's virulent hatred, Peck's Atticus Finch offers his children lifelong lessons in quiet heroism and exemplary parenthood. •

Other 'Dad' Movies

1. Bird Cage (1996)
2. Meet the Parents (2000)
3. The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)
4. The Empire Strikes Back (1980)
5. Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade (1989)
6. My Father, The Hero (1994)
7. Shrek 3 (2007)
8. Wanted: Perfect Father (1994)
9. Mrs. Doubtfire (1993)
10. Lion King (1994)
11. The Family Man (2000)
12. The Pacifier (2005)
13. Chasing Liberty (2004)
14. In the Name of the Father (1994)
15. Armageddon (1998)
16. Till There Was You (2003)
17. Paper Moon (1973)
18. Junior (1997)
19. Daddy Long legs (1955)
20. Three Men and a Baby (1987)

By Leica R. Carpo
Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero



Daddy Rocks the Cradle

Shirt from Paul Smith

"WHATEVER rational ideas you have about having kids fly completely out of the window when you find out it's happening to you," recalls maverick ad man David Guerrero on finding out that he was going to be a father.
The multi-awarded chair and chief creative officer of the ad agency BBDO Guerrero and Ortega shares his thoughts on being a cool dad to Kimi, 17, and Mo, 9. The first Asean Cannes Jury President also proves that the fruit does not fall far from the tree when he speaks of his father, diplomat Leon Ma. Guerrero, whose books on Rizal he has published.

How was your relationship with your father?
How did that influence your fathering style?
I was somewhat awed by my dad when I was younger. He told me stories that made me laugh and I think that worked out well for both of us! Our relationship progressed as I grew up. He didn't shy away from awkward subjects and loved saying things to see how you'd react. For example, he told me: 'I'll see you through college then after that you're on your own.' As it turned out, he died before I finished college, but fortunately his work's been with me ever since. I published his translations of the "Noli me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" and Rizal's biography, "The First Filipino." I've also been working on an anthology of his life told entirely through photographs, writings and third party accounts.
As a dad I now have a better understanding of the emotions he probably went through. Especially that sense of

JAMMING with
Kimi and Mo

His father once told him, 'Never apologize, never explain.' That, says advertising whiz David Guerrero, only means one has to take things seriously enough to do it right the first time. And that's exactly what he's doing with his kids.

wanting your kids to have everything but not wanting them to have it too easy.

What do you wish you had done more with your dad?
Just more conversations. It's something we had that I never wanted to end.

Best advice your dad ever gave you?
"Never apologize, never explain." Which sounds a bit harsh. But if you take yourself and your relationships seriously, it puts the burden on you to get things right in the first place. I can't say I've always followed it. But I have no excuse and I'm not saying sorry.

How would you describe your relationship with your children?
We're close. I love spending time with them. They're always helping me discover new things and I try to return the favor. Sometimes I let them do what they want because I believe it helps build their confidence. At other times I say 'you must do this.' I hope I can help them understand how things work, and appreciate the rewards of focus and discipline. I'm with Aretha Franklin in saying the most important thing is 'r-e-s-p-e-c-t'—for yourself and for others.

If they had a complaint about you—what would it be? Do you agree? How would you change it?
One complaint is probably that I don't get home early enough and that I travel too much. True. You have to keep reminding yourself of priorities. Because while work is often pressing and urgent, it's probably not always as important as we tell ourselves it is.

What is your stand on discipline?
I'm a big believer in doing things by example. How many times have we seen people punish their kids for hitting someone by slapping? It's important to keep your cool when you're faced with disciplining your kids otherwise you end up setting an entirely wrong example yourself. In a funny way, I think kids have too much respect for their parents to NOT do what they do.

Share a bonding moment with both kids?
We all play Guitar Hero on the Playstation—which is where you 'play' rock tracks on a plastic guitar in line with the melody on the screen. It sounds really stupid but it's a great cross-generational game. Although they're better than me at the gamecraft, many of the songs come from my era rather than theirs—so at least I can introduce them to some great music.

Can someone have it all: great career, perfect partner, amazing kids, good looks, and so on? What would you give up if you had no choice? What would you keep?
I don't think anyone has it all really. Kids remind us of our mortality and a parent's responsibility to them is one of the few absolute truths in life. They will act in society the way they grow up to perceive it. And it's up to us as parents to help them get as complete a picture as possible.

What legacy do you plan to leave your kids?
I don't think you can plan to leave a legacy (other than financial of course!). A legacy is the sum total of what other people remember you for and the lasting things you leave behind. And whatever that is, I hope I can get more time to work on it! •

BBDO Guerrero Ortega: (Campaign Brief Asia) Philippine Agency of the Year 2007, (The Gunn Report) World's 100 Most Awarded Agencies

By Tony M. Maghirang
Photo by Romy Homillada

Father, mother, husband, homemaker

Anastacio Caubalejo takes care of hearth and home, now that wife Jennifer works in Dubai. The role reversal's no big deal, he says, thanks to a supportive family and a community of similarly-situated men

TATAY na nanay (Mr. Mom). It's a label that Anastacio "Taz" Caubalejo, 42, has gotten used to. Ever since wife Jennifer started working as a domestic in Dubai, he has assumed her multiple tasks as homemaker and mother to three growing children.

Taz, who used to be an overseas Filipino worker himself, relishes the role reversal. "I've had it with working abroad so when Jennifer was offered the Dubai job, we decided that she'd take it while I'd stay home and take care of the kids."

The "househusband" trend seems to touch not only OFWs but locally-employed men as well, since most industries now prefer women for its mass production line and quality control processes. This preference has left most laid-off men no other choice but to take on household chores while the missus becomes the breadwinner.

On school days, Taz describes his routine thus: "Wake up at 4 in the morning to prepare breakfast and the kids' *baon* (packed lunch). Then prepare their clothes for school. After they leave, I clean up the house, then do the laundry or the ironing."

He does part-time work too, he says, adding that his mother-in-law, *Lola* Gloria, watches over the children when he's out of the house. She lives on the ground floor of this makeshift house in barangay Botokan beside Camp Karingal in Quezon City while his family occupies the second floor.

Taz, whose nickname comes from the cartoon character Tazmanian Devil, is a lighting technician for TV and film producers and usually does odd jobs at night during weekends. He has also become a minor celebrity in the neighborhood, after having appeared as an extra in the highly-acclaimed indie film "Kubrador." His latest project for the teleserye "Asian Treasures" takes him a couple of nights a week to Tanay for the wrap-up shoot of the Philippine episode of the TV adventure drama.

MR. Mom: Caubalejo takes care of the kids while wife Jennifer (inset) works abroad.

"It used to be that as night falls, I'd gather the kids at home so we could spend the night together," he says. "Now, thanks to technology, I can text them anytime, even at work, to see how they're doing. They all have their own cell phones."

His wife calls at least twice a week to stay in touch. It will be her second year in Dubai in October, and Taz hopes she will be allowed to come home for the Christmas holidays. Being a househusband is no joke, he adds in Filipino. "When I was abroad, my children were toddlers. Now that my wife is gone, they've grown and have developed their own character traits. It's not always easy to get along with them. I'd tell them to tidy up the house and I come home to see it's still a mess. And to think my eldest is a girl. Sometimes I can't help but get angry at them to the point that I want to hit them. But I tell myself, they're still young, they'll learn. My point is, it would be good for them to know how to take care of the household this early."

The couple also made sure that their children understood why their mother had to work abroad, says Taz. They wanted to show that it was a mutual decision and that the separation was strictly for economic reasons and not because of marital discord. "We wanted them to appreciate that it was for them and not for us," he says, adding that they're aware of rumors swirling around OFW couples. *"Ayaw namin na isipin nilang lumayo na lang basta ang nanay nila. Baka magtanim pa ng galit ang mga yan* (We didn't want them to think that their mother abandoned them; they might bear a grudge against her)."

Becoming a house-husband is no big deal in his community, says Taz, because a lot of other husbands are similarly situated. In fact, a non-government organization, Kanlungan, has been providing counseling assistance specifically to wives of OFWs. As the only male members, Taz and another relative, *Tatay* Ben, have attended several meetings of the OFW group, where they call themselves in jest "*ang mga babae ng asosasyon* (the women of the association)."

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Diego's Story

As told to Gina Abuyuan

"Loving an adopted child is finding love on a different level. He's not of your flesh and blood but you chose to love him," says businessman and inn keeper Boots Alcantara of his son Diego.

An Alcantara

WE were exposed to the idea of adoption by my in-laws (Basic Advertising founder Antonio Mercado and writer Monina), who set up the Adoptive Society. They gave out books and stories about adoptive parents and children, and my wife (writer An Mercado-Alcantara) thought, *"wow, galing* (great)!" We had been married for a long time and didn't have any children. Going for medication wasn't an option. Our stand was, *"kung wala, wala* (let's leave it to fate)." We also thought that what we were going through said something about us. Before my father-in-law died, I got to spend time with him, and he said why not consider adoption? So we did.

Three years after my father-in-law died, we considered having one of our own. But we realized that the blessing and grace of having a child was different, that a different level of love was being tapped.

We considered going through the transient program offered by ABS-CBN Bantay Bata, where you'd take in a child while the parent was being rehabilitated, but you'd have to bring the kid back. We didn't want that—what if you've learned to love the kid in the meantime? So An contacted the Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, and we began going through the steps of legal adoption. We met with a social worker, filled up forms, went through interviews. There was even an essay to determine if you had a match with the child you wanted to adopt.

I remember the social worker saying, "The advantage of adoption is that you get to choose." Male, female, age, background. This to me was an advantage, the power of choice. I wanted to go for a child whose background I knew of, no drug problem or criminal record, as least traumatic as possible. An was the opposite. She wanted to take care of someone who was more disadvantaged. But my stand was, we already have the advantage of choice so why go there? So we agreed on a child who has a clean background. They sent us the profile of the first child. An athlete's child so the genes are fine. But he was already three and An wanted someone younger, a baby just a few months old.

Then came Diego.

We got his profile, but I felt there was something missing. I wasn't comfortable with it. It said he was the son of a live-in couple, both gainfully employed, and that the father just stopped coming home. There was something wrong with the story, so I asked if I could interview the social worker who did the report. True enough, Diego was the son of her friend, and the father already had a family. So that was the complication. I felt better.

We made a schedule to see Diego. I wanted to take it slow, to take a look at the baby then go home to discuss it further. But An wanted to take the baby home right away. She said it would be hard to let go, and that the baby might feel rejected if we delayed further. My wife is really ruled by her heart.

So we went to this orphanage in Mandaluyong. They've got a great system. They have volunteer "moms"—one for every 10 kids. The usual process for couples looking to adopt is that they spend a night over. For the next few nights, the baby would sleep with a volunteer mom for him to get used to being with an adult. Then there'd be a Mass, like a ceremony where the baby is formally handed over to the couple. We didn't have to go through that, since the head nun was from San Pablo, where my family is originally from.

Then Diego was brought out. He was three months old. As soon as we held him, that was it. We brought him home right away. He didn't even have any clothes!

We went through the whole process for legal adoption—hearings, regular meetings with the social worker. The order was just issued a few months ago. Now his birth certificate has been amended and he's now an Alcantara.

Anyway, I did the whole diaper-changing bit. It was funny the first few nights. I was complaining to my friends about how costly diapers are. Because he'd pee three times a night, you'd change diapers as often too. It turns out that's not how you do it.

The difficulties we encountered were more on the finances—there's a dent there—but that's a given. It feels so good to sleep beside your baby. Of course you fear

(continued on page 12)

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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

2				5				1
			3		4			
	6						7	
	1			7			8	
6			9	1	5			3
	9			4			2	
	8						6	
			4		1			
7				8				9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	5	7	4	8	2	3	1
3	2	1	6	5	9	7	8	4
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
5	3	2	4	7	6	9	1	8
4	9	7	3	8	1	6	5	2
1	8	6	5	9	2	3	4	7
8	1	3	9	6	7	4	2	5
2	5	9	8	3	4	1	7	6
6	7	4	2	1	5	8	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*
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Cover: David Guerrero with Kimi and Mo
Photograph: Eddie Boy Escudero
Clothes: Paul Smith (shirt) for David
Volume 20 No. 64 June 3, 2007
ISSN 0116-232X

Diego's story (from page 11)

you might crush him, but there's nothing like looking at him while he sleeps. It used to be that when we were with friends and they'd talk about their babies, raving about their every movement and every smile, we'd think they were overreacting. Big deal, right? Now we understand the fascination. You really see life in its purest form—moving, in process. So you get to appreciate time, especially time spent with your kid, because you see him being formed in every way.

Like I remember this one time at the dinner table when Diego was around three. He put his foot on the dinner table, then looked at An. She asked him, "Diego, why are you putting your foot on the table?" He wiggled his toes. "Saying hello," he answered.

Now he's five years old. He'll be entering Xavier School this coming schoolyear. Imagine that! Me and Diego, we like to play. I've always wanted to be playful with my son. I also like toys—that's what we do every Sunday, we go to Greenhills or Shangri-la, we eat at a fastfood, then we buy a matchbox, one for both of us. Just the two of us, always.

There's something about loving an adopted child—it's love on a different level because you chose to love him. He's not of your flesh and blood but still you love him. It's not true what they say about adopted children being loved less.

If you choose to adopt, from the very start, it has to be based on truth. You're adopted—so what? There's nothing wrong with it. Society will just have to get used to that part of the dynamics now. True, being adopted sometimes finds its way into jokes. A few years ago there was even an ad that put adoption in a not so kind light. The Adoptive Society complained, so it was pulled out.

If Diego wants to look for his birth parents someday, we won't stop him. We're secure in the love we're giving him. I think there'll always be some pain in being aware that your mother "gave you away," but look at the other side. She loves you so she gave you away. She knew she couldn't take care of you and she couldn't give you a good life because of certain circumstances. So her decision was prompted by love, as well. •

The Kaisahang Buhay Foundation (KBF) is located at 56 10th Avenue, Cubao Q.C., tel. nos. 912-1159 and 911-4180. For reservations at Casa San Pablo, please contact 0917-5268628.

Figure it Out

63.6 - Percentage of Filipino men who marry between ages 20 and 29 (2003)

2 - Mean number of children fathered by Filipinos (2003)

7 days - Length of paternity leave in the Philippines

450,000 - Number of male overseas Filipino workers (2004)

P42.2 billion - Total remittances sent by male OFWs (2004)

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Getting a kick out of fatherhood

By Claire Agbayani

Andrew Chinapala

Romy Homillada

SOCCER frenzy

Some of them didn't even play any sport when they were kids, but as soccer dads to their enthusiastic tykes, they've realized how seriously fun and games can cement family relationships

"THERE is a saying that goes "Older generations have to do math, science and business so that the younger generations can better appreciate music, arts and sports", quotes Alvin Carranza, 41, who tries to define fatherhood while keeping an eye on the soccer field at the Manila Polo Club where his son is competing in a tournament.

What this entrepreneur, who heads MacGraphics Carranz Inc. and Out-of-Home Media, has discovered, however, is that as the younger generation goes into music, arts and sports -- most especially sports -- the older generation should be ready to occasionally leave the math, science and business and just be there for them.

Alvin's 11-year-old son Skie Doug Carranz is a member of the soccer team of his school, the Holistic Education in Development Center (Hed Cen). This makes Alvin part of a special band of brothers (or fathers) whose entire summers are spent in a routine of early morning practice, cheering and morale-boosting, out-of-town tournaments, and roller-coaster emotional rides. It's no joke, the "soccer dads" will tell you, to be up at 5:30 a.m. everyday, for the entire summer, to bring a child for his or her two-hour soccer training.

Says Luigi Bernardo, 39, an architect of Kron Construction, and father to Jaime Joaquin, 6, who plays for the Ateneo. "When we're both at home, it's never quiet because our small living room is transformed into a football stadium. Bang! Whooosh! Crash!"

Businessman Toby Tanjuatco, 45, whose son Micah, a 10-year-old on the Ateneo team, has been playing since he was 6, shares the same gripe--oddly tinged with pride-- about early morning weekends.

Not to forget the Football Festivals, add Derek Brugada, 37, and Victor Adrias, 41, who root for their sons, both of Hed Cen. Derek, an IT professional, says this means spending almost an entire day at competition venues practically every weekend, to watch 8-year-old Kaze Kendrick. Victor's son Gabby is two years younger but already has him tied to a regular 7:30 a.m. practice schedule on Saturdays and Sundays.

"So you want to know what it means to be a 'soccer dad'? Just one word: commitment," chimes in Archie Santos-Tankia, 36, a logistics manager for an American agricultural firm, who is also a "soccer dad" because of sons Miggy, 11, and Marky, 9.

It's interesting to note that some of the soccer dads, though decidedly sports-minded, weren't even into soccer in their youth. Archie confesses he had never played soccer in his entire life - preferring basketball, tennis and swimming - and was only introduced to the sport by his sons.

Lawyer, college instructor and stage actor Eric Santos, 45, who has two children, Riana, 12 and Raja, 8, in the Hed Cen varsity team, says that although he was a member of the RIFA High School Soccer Team, "I wasn't a good player. Like most Pinoys, I was more into basketball. I also played tennis, bowling, and pelota—which is so '70s."

Maxx Nackaerts, a 54-year-old Belgian national, is even more candid. "I don't know anything about soccer," he admits. "I didn't like football when I was little; I thought it was most boring." But his children, Marsha, 13 and Nikko, 9, had been lured by the sport. "Marsha was fanatical about it. She's one of the better players - and she's going to Denmark and Norway this July as part of the national team," says the visibly beaming soccer dad.

Just this summer, some of the soccer dads - and moms - of children born in 1998 watched their kids compete in Sta. Barbara and Barotac in Iloilo ("the football capital of the Philippines"), and were rewarded with a gold from Sta. Barbara, and a silver from Barotac. But not all seasons are like this, the parents will be the first to tell you.

"Soccer is a physical sport, and for a kid, losing is the worst feeling - it's exhausting and depressing. You always have to be

(continued on page 14)

Father, mother... (from page 10)

Taz also feels that that the much-touted longing for a spouse isn't as big a deal as it is perceived to be. He admits his physical need for his wife but doesn't dwell too much on it. He explains, "The body's needs can be set aside. I make sure my time and attention are on my children."

His two girls, Mary Joy, 12, and Renceses, 10, are blooming into young ladies. So how does a man like him cope with their pubescent needs? He says, again in Filipino: "It looks like they can take care of themselves.

"I buy them feminine pads when needed. It's our youngest, Cedrick Jude, 8, who has a bit of a problem. His *lola* tells me that when the boy wakes at night, he still looks for his mother."

Bonding with his children is something that Taz takes seriously. He goes out with them to celebrate a birthday, Mother's and Father's Day and Christmas, and takes them to his parents' house every now and then to meet their other relatives. When his wife calls him, he makes sure that she gets to talk to their children as well.

But the best moments, says Taz, happen at night before they go to sleep. That's when he gets a chance to play with his brood, after which the four of them share the same bed. Being so close together, he hardly feels the void left by his wife's absence, he adds. •

Getting a kick out of fatherhood (from page 13)

supportive and encouraging, even if you yourself are exhausted and depressed," shares Alvin. "Parents should always provide a good support system."

The thing is to focus on the positives, not only for the children but for the parents. For Eric Arcega, 33, knowing soccer has been good for 10-year-old Miguel Simon is worth the loss of extended sleep time on weekends. He says he noticed that his son, who used to be sickly, has grown healthier because of the exposure to sunshine and rain.

"All my wife and I have to do is get him the gear, bring him to practice,attend his games, and cheer him on in the heat," he adds. "Soccer dads and moms just have to make sure the kids have sunblock on, and are properly hydrated. What's even better is that the parents of the '98 team my son is in have become close friends, so we all look forward to being at the games. Our kids enjoy themselves and the sport more because they see us enjoying ourselves too. The camaraderie is infectious and the potluck lunches, delicious!"

The kids develop social or people skills, says Eric, and are able to deal with different emotions, whether they win ("very proud") or lose ("sad"). Toby adds, "It's a lot of fun watching your son give his best while making new friends and learning the values of competition, sportsmanship and teamwork."

And, of course, nothing beats the father-and-son (and daughter!) bonding that's built-in on the soccer field - and that eventually extends beyond.

"I enjoy playing with my kids while they're waiting for games to begin. I play goalie for them, run around with them," says Archie. "This is good workout for me after a stressful day at my company, but more than that, it's good for us," he adds.

Toby and Derek agree that soccer is a good place to start getting close to your kids. "We make it a point to be present in

Romy Homillada

HANDS-on dads at play

all their school activities, not just soccer," says Toby, "and we do have a lot of other typical family activities like out-of -town trips, movies, and eating out."

The "soccer dads" realize that this special time with their sons and daughters is not forever. So while they do occasionally whine and sigh over the practice sessions that get them out of bed too early on weekends, they actually relish this time when they are at least still able to offer "informal" coaching—and the kids do listen—and when the young ones come to them with their victories as well as their defeats.

As Eric sums it up for all fathers, "I just savor the watching and listening—the moments they seek me out to tell me about 'important stuff'. I dread the day when they'll stop doing that and start feeling how uncool it is to talk to their father." •

Soccer dads on what they want their father had done for them

Romy Homillada

"Encouraged me to play an instrument - like the guitar" - Maxx Nackaerts

"Introduced me to soccer" - Derek Brugada

"I wish he had a little more time with me that could have encouraged me to go into sports at an early age" - Victor Adrias

"I wish he had watched me play (table tennis and basketball) when I was younger. He was not available often since he worked at night and slept till late in the morning." - Archie Santos-Tankia

Text and photos by Ernie U. Sarmiento

Life as a "Terrorist"

Joma (right) with Agcaoili and Gonzalez on a walking tour of Utrecht

TWENTY years in the Netherlands and Jose Maria Sison, political adviser of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, looks well-settled in Utrecht.

But looks can be deceiving, he says with a laugh.

"I'm still dressed decently, better than those Dutch living near the riverbanks. But though they may be wearing rags, they are receiving benefits from the government," says Joma in an interview over coffee and doughnuts in the three-story building being rented by the NDF.

Walking past graffiti on the wall

A lively discussion with NDF panel members

Joma's social benefits, living allowances, housing and health insurance have been revoked by the Dutch government after the United States placed him on the terrorist list in 2002.

Even gifts and loans from friends are suspect, he jokes in Filipino. "When my wife had our house transferred to her name, I kidded her, 'You will be accused of financing a terrorist!' "

He lives a simple life, he says. "I wake up between 9 a.m. and 11 am because I sleep late, between 2 and 4 a.m. I got used to it from giving all those radio interviews."

He rarely gives lectures in universities now, Joma says, as he is not allowed to receive any honorarium because of the terrorist tag.

An early dinner of 'sinigang na baboy'

Later, key NDF officials arrive, including Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDF negotiating panel, panel member Fidel Agcaoili, and staff officer Aldo Gonzalez.

Serenaded by student guests

In a free-wheeling discussion, the group proves itself updated on current events in the country.

In the evening, a group of Filipino students arrive at the NDF office and sing songs for Joma. He, in turn, leads them on a walking tour of the city. •

(Sarmiento took a break from his two-week course on photojournalism held in Amsterdam to visit the NDF offices in April.)

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